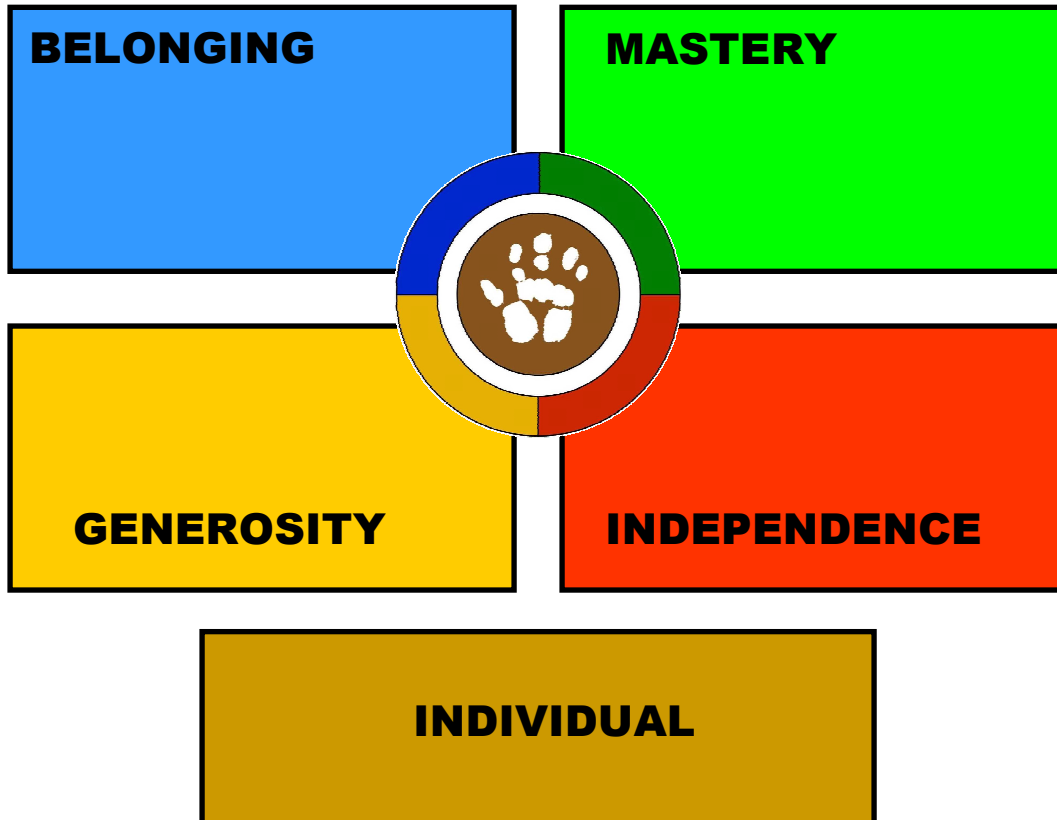


Chester Ronning School: Culture of Success Document

Welcome to the

CIRCLE OF COURAGE



The Circle of Courage philosophy is an integral part of developing a sense of community in which all are valued. All new staff and students are informed about the Circle of Courage on the first day of school. Throughout the year connections are made to the elements of the circle and how they relate to our actions and beliefs.

At the centre of the circle of courage is a handprint. Every new student and staff member to our school has their handprint placed on our wall. This symbolizes that they belong and are a special part of Chester Ronning.

The core of this program derived from Aboriginal traditions is the holistic enhancement of a child's self-esteem through the development of the four elements **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. It is only through the development of all four elements that one can achieve a sense of "wholeness" and can approach the world with the courage necessary to meet its demands.

The four elements can be integrated into virtually every aspect of our school program. It is our plan to utilize the various components of the Circle of Courage wherever possible to support the growth of students' affective, cognitive, and academic skills. The Circle of Courage provides all of us with a common vocabulary for problem solving, conflict resolution, the pursuit of character education, and the elimination of violence within our learning community. It provides us an umbrella under which we can explore many of the character building needs of our community.

The Circle of Courage is central to our work with children, with staff members, with the parents of our children, and with the world at large.

Our Circle of Courage logo is proudly displayed in the front foyer of our school as well as in the centre of our gym. Four wall size murals in the hallway were prepared by professional artist, Vincent Wright and depict each of the four main components of the Circle.

BELONGING

The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trust so the child can say, “**I am loved.**”

Belonging refers to the child’s being an accepted and contributing member of a group or community, and building meaningful relationships with others. By belonging to the community of learners at Chester Ronning School, students work to find their own space and roles within our community. They experience both success and challenges. Students, their parents, and our staff see the school as their learning community.

MASTERY

The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated by learning to cope with the work so the child can say, “**I can succeed.**”

Mastery refers to the need for students to experience success and competence at a skill or activity. Mastery is the foundation of self-esteem and provides the motivation for further achievement. At Chester Ronning School we strive to ensure that all learning activities provide every student an opportunity to build a strong sense of Mastery and a sense of success as a learner.

INDEPENDENCE

Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say, “**I have the power to make decisions.**”

Independence refers to the development of the child’s self-reliance and the ability to make responsible decisions. Independent people can choose the option of becoming interdependent. We design our learning program to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn independently, with partners, and in groups. We endeavor to teach independent learning strategies and skills and monitor student development to maximize opportunities to develop independence.

GENEROSITY

Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say, “**I have a purpose for my life.**”

Generosity refers to the nurturance of the ethic of caring and finding a purpose beyond oneself, and offering service to the community. Our students demonstrate their spirit of generosity locally, through their work with others within the school, community-wide as they share their talents with others through their leadership opportunities within the school, and globally through special projects.



Chester Ronning is committed to ensure that our school is welcoming and caring for everyone. By teaching, modeling, and intentionally sharing the values of the Circle of Courage, we are dedicated to promoting and maintaining:

- Positive actions, interactions, and traditions
- A healthy sense of belonging
- Smooth transitions within and between schools.

At our school the staff, students, and parents are consistently and continuously involved with activities that reflect the Circle of Courage. Below is a list of examples to illustrate the fit within the four areas of our Circle of Courage philosophy. Many activities cross over into several of the four areas.

CIRCLE OF COURAGE WELCOMING AND CARING ACTIVITIES

BELONGING

- Establish a welcoming classroom & school environment
- Grade 1-6 Mentoring groups
- Orientation of newcomers
- Visual reminders: Circle of Courage murals
- Special events
- Announcements: birthdays, special events
- Counseling
- Grade 1 & 6 buddies
- Grade 6 ranch camp
- Christmas concerts
- Skating/Swimming events
- Remembrance Day ceremony
- Chester Ronning choir
- Chester Ronning clubs
- Monthly assemblies
- Winter Fun Day
- Field Trips

INDEPENDENCE

- Personal responsibility
- Focused on-task behavior without supervision
- Behaving when no one is watching
- Safety Patrol & Milk program leadership
- MAUI conflict resolution team
- Ranch camp
- Student leadership at Spring Fun Day
- Kids' Council
- School-wide recycling & composting

MASTERY

- Focus on Academics
- Student led conferences
- Super Student awards
- Year-end awards
- Partnership with 2 schools in China – Global citizenship
- Character education & Circle of Courage
- Model respect, responsibility
- Anti-bullying skills
- Conflict resolution skills
- Mentors Are Us Incorporated (MAUI)
- Safety patrol
- Sports skills and teams
- Butterdome relay teams
- Ronning Relays
- Roots of Empathy program
- Grade 2 & 4 swimming lessons

GENEROSITY

- Terry Fox Marathon for Hope
- Chester Chums – Visits with senior citizens
- Hungry for Haiti Fundraiser - Orphanage sponsorship
- Donations: Silent Santa, Books under the Tree, Food Bank
- Parent volunteers
- Staff volunteers
- Classroom helpers
- Breakfast club