

Dear FA Families,

The faculty and staff participated in what I hope will prove to be a valuable exercise during this year's pre-planning time. As a collection of 70-plus individuals, we were asked to individually identify a dozen or so attributes that we want and expect to see in an FA graduate. When each of us had created our list, we were grouped into heterogeneous pods of six people, across divisions and across disciplines.

Within those groups we shared our individual lists and spoke on behalf of why each of us selected the traits that we did. Then we were asked to discuss and build consensus within the group regarding the most important dozen of those traits.

The following day we all reviewed the "most important" lists from each of the eleven groups. Those rankings were compiled into a final draft list, which was shared again, and we were all invited one last time to respond to that list. In the end, the following attributes were deemed as the most important and impactful characteristics of an FA graduate. In ranked order:

- Honorable
- Strong Communicator
- Respectful
- Compassionate
- Resilient
- College Prepared
- Problem Solver
- Globally Minded
- Lifelong Learner
- Well Rounded
- Disciplined
- Responsible
- Adaptable
- Committed to a Healthy Lifestyle

For certain, there were other important traits identified and discussed, and this is not intended to be an exhaustive profile, but it does signal to ourselves and to others what we value most in our students and in our educational experience.

Now that we have identified the attributes, the work of crafting a school-wide culture that supports the development of these traits commences. If young people are expected to acquire these traits and inculcate them into their core being, we, as a school, need to prioritize the teaching, modeling, and reinforcing of these traits in our classes and in our relationships. Students who are with us from 4-18 years old or any portion of that fourteen-year time span, and spend the bulk of their waking hours in school and/or on school-related tasks, deserve to be immersed in an environment that nourishes those high-priority attributes. To the heart of the matter, how effective we are at constructing that focused culture defines the FA experience and proves the worth of our school.

In the end, I have asked teachers and coaches at all grade levels to begin to think about how they might integrate lessons on these attributes into their curriculum and specifically into their writing assignments. Each month the school will highlight one or two attributes; we will begin with "honorable" in September.

Our core business is helping parents to raise quality human beings – helping students more fully develop in mind, body, and spirit. Identifying these traits gives us a bit more of a specific target to aim for, and by sharing the list with you now, allows us all to work together towards a common goal more effectively.

Respectfully,

Scott L. Hutchinson  
Head of School