



GreatHearts[®]
Lakeside

Lakeside 101: Family Orientation Sessions

Session 5: Student Culture

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Mascot: The Lion

The mascot of Great Hearts Lakeside is the lion. At Great Hearts we love and desire to foster the fundamental habits and dispositions of human excellence, what the Greeks called *arête* and the Romans *virtus*, where we get the English word for “virtue.” The lion is a symbol of strength, a bodily virtue, which we seek to cultivate along with the moral and intellectual virtues like justice, moderation, knowledge, skill and wisdom. Lions are also a symbol of the moral virtue of courage, which we define as "doing what we know to be right despite fear, hardship, and opposition, resisting negative peer pressure, defending our rights and the rights of others, and encouraging others to do the same." It is this willingness to use our strength for the benefit of others, to exercise our virtues without arrogance, that we seek above all for ourselves and our students.

A Liberal Arts Education

- A liberal arts education consists of cognitive, emotional and moral education—thinking deeply, loving noble things and living well together. We believe, with Plato, that the highest goal of education is to become good, intellectually and morally.
- Our students benefit when the intellectual and moral bar is set high in the classroom. Lowering expectation is an act of misguided sympathy, not of love and mercy.

A Liberal Arts Education

- We do not deploy a “character curriculum.” Students are formed by the culture of the school, implied and explicit.
- Teachers lead students with intelligence, charisma, humor, integrity and by example.

Academic Expectations

We believe that every student can learn. Our curriculum is rigorous, and expectations of students are high; but we are not an exclusive school for "the best and the brightest." We strive to create an environment in which any student who wants to may have the opportunity to succeed academically.

Just as individuals differ in physical gifts, we also differ in academic gifts. The uniform, procedures, curriculum and processes are in place to minimize distractions, so that students can learn. A Great Hearts education is not easy. The key to success at Great Hearts does not rely on whether one is a "math person" or if he or she "just gets it." Rather, success comes from a student's genuine curiosity and diligent application every day.

Moral Formation

Habits of behavior play a significant role in forming habits of the mind. Aristotle taught that we become just by doing things that are just, temperate by doing things that are temperate, and courageous by doing things that are courageous.

Our structures and procedures aim to create an ordered, joyful and safe environment in which students encounter daily examples of virtue. Our goal is to create a place where students are able and encouraged to practice doing what is good for themselves and their community.

Nine Core Virtues

We believe that unlocking the unique potential of every student requires an education that is deeply human. To prepare this generation for the challenges of their adulthood, we foster these nine core virtues within our faculty and our students.

Nine Core Virtues

Responsibility

Own your actions.

We accept obligations related to our own good and the good of others, and we act on those obligations in a timely and satisfactory manner.

Perseverance

Never give up.

We maintain a steadfast purpose in our work despite difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement. We respond creatively to overcome obstacles and ask for help when necessary.

Integrity

Walk a straight and steady path.

We are individuals of strong ethical values, who make consistently good choices in keeping with our knowledge of right and wrong. We seek the wisdom of others in cases of moral uncertainty.

Nine Core Virtues

Honesty

Always speak the truth.

We strive to be truthful and sincere. We never knowingly convince someone to believe what is false.

Courage

Overcome adversity
with heart.

We always do what we know to be right despite fear, hardship, and opposition. We resist negative peer pressure, defend our rights and the rights of others, and encourage others to do the same.

Citizenship

Live to serve.

We value our membership in a larger society and show our fidelity by honoring its rules and culture. We give of our time and abilities to others. We uphold liberty and social equality through respect for individual differences and knowledge of our democratic system.

Nine Core Virtues

Humility

Act without expectation.

We are free from arrogance. We always strive to do our best whether we are recognized or not.

Friendship

Be the best for others.

We regard others and ourselves as deserving of kind and just treatment. Our attitudes toward others and their property reflect the way we wish to be treated.

Wisdom

Know, then act.

We understand that justice requires action in accordance with what is true and right. We learn from our mistakes and think before we act.

Five Commitments

Faculty, staff and students promote an environment in which we all can learn, grow and pursue Truth, Goodness and Beauty. Therefore we adhere to our Five Commitments.

1. We will be respectful.
2. We will be prepared.
3. We will be attentive.
4. We will follow directions.
5. We will strive for excellence.

Role of the Teacher

The classroom teacher is the student's primary agent of moral formation within a Great Hearts Academy. Teachers build a foundation of trust and mutual respect while shaping an ordered, joyful environment. They lead students first to *perform* virtuous actions, and then eventually to *know* and to *choose* virtuous action. Teachers help students recognize and negotiate between the needs of the self and the needs of others. In doing so, teachers help their students to become friends and citizens.

Academy Discipline

Our students are young, human, and will make mistakes in speech and behavior. When a student's behavior falls short of the Academy expectations, they will receive a simple and straightforward correction. Most students respond quickly and positively to correction, and no further action is needed. However, when a behavior is not immediately corrected, additional discipline may be required.

Academy Discipline

When determining disciplinary action, teachers and administrators always consider

- the seriousness of the offense,
- the student's age and grade level,
- the frequency of misbehavior,
- the student's attitude
- the effect of the misconduct on the school environment.

Our guiding policy is to be fair, firm, and consistent. However, Great Hearts Lakeside reserves the right to exercise reasonable judgment as an individual circumstance might dictate.

Academy Discipline

Great Hearts Lakeside is committed to maintaining a safe and humane environment for its students, faculty, and staff. Our focus is on the prevention of violence, bullying, and other threats to the health and safety of our community. Lakeside is supported by report and response structures within our regional and national Great Hearts leadership and in partnership with local law enforcement and emergency response teams.

Academy Discipline

Students, faculty and staff not only refrain from harmful and dangerous behaviors but are also responsible for immediately reporting any dangerous activity or conditions to the administration. If ever the safety of our community is compromised, Lakeside administration will report to local law enforcement and/or emergency response teams and will communicate with out families.

Celebrations

Celebrations are the culmination of our rigorous pursuit of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness. Each grade level plans celebrations centered around their curriculum, such as 2nd grade Greek Olympics and 4th grade Medieval History. Special content areas may also have events, such as Roman Hair Day for Latin scholars.

Other times, the entire Academy will celebrate together. Faculty and students dress for Literary and Historical Figures Day. Concerts and plays provide special opportunities to celebrate fine arts and field days, such as the Greek Olympiad, provide opportunities for athleticism and camaraderie.

Questions?

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the **student culture** of Great Hearts Lakeside. While we have endeavored to provide meaningful information about our **student culture**, we recognize that there may be unanswered questions. Please email any further questions to info@greatheartslakeside.org

In partnership,

Great Hearts Lakeside