



## LEADER LINKS

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### ***About the LEADER LINKS...***

The Leader Link is a weekly message delivered via email to support character development, good citizenship and social responsibility. The Leader Links address the same character traits that our students focus on throughout the week. Each Leader Link provides a simple definition, an inspiring quotation, a thought provoking question and an action prompt to encourage you, your friends, associates or group to consciously incorporate each quality into daily living.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

### **Definition:**

**Good Sportsmanship means to play fair, and to also show respect for opponents both on and off the field.**

### **Leader's Message:**

Sports are a major cultural phenomenon that reflects and shapes our national values. The way sports are played and the way participants and spectators react reveals the best and worst of human nature. At their best, sports provide a gallant metaphor for life, teaching us to strive and struggle with passion and integrity, to pursue victory with honor.

Globally, the very essence of sportsmanship is evident in the Olympic Creed which was introduced in 1908. To this day, this statement is still a guiding star for those who want to realize the full potential of sports: "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

### **Food for thought:**

Consider this quote by Knute Rockne:\* *"One man practicing good sportsmanship is far better than 50 others preaching it."*

### **Action Prompt:**

Be a good sport – let your actions show it. Actions do speak louder than words, especially when it comes to practicing good sportsmanship. Be a great example of good sportsmanship for the youth you encounter. The following will help you show the way:

1. Show respect to yourself.
2. Practice the Golden Rule.
3. Play by the rules and always play fair.
4. Accept judgment calls of officials without argument.
5. Offer encouragement to teammates, especially when they make a mistake.
6. Always keep comments positive.
7. Applaud good plays no matter who makes them.
8. Point out examples of good sportsmanship in professional athletes.
9. Lose without pouting.
10. Win without gloating.

Always remember – there is no true victory without honor.

*\* Knute Kenneth Rockne (March 4, 1888 – March 31, 1931) was an American football player and is regarded as one of the greatest coaches in college football history.*