

## A Successful Student at The Oaks

How should success be defined at The Oaks? It is an excellent question to consider as we close out the first quarter of the 2021-22 school year. It's safe to say that parents desire their children to succeed in The Oaks' community, both inside and outside the classroom. The typical response to the question of whether or not a student is being successful is to consider the student's grades. High marks, it is believed, are a clear indication of success. Although a student's report card can offer insight into student achievement, could there be other indicators of success that can provide a higher and more comprehensive understanding of the student and the learning process? Grades are indeed useful, but education is more than information, and the student is more than a receptacle for that information.

As parents and teachers partnering together, let's consider a better and bigger picture of student assessment than grades can afford, one that takes into account what is going on daily in the classroom and the hallways, the habits of mind and character illustrated when students rise up and sit down, when they come in and go out. In light of this, I invite you to consider the following because a bigger and more Biblical measure of success matters.

My child is successful when he/she:

- is **engaged, listens well** in class, and follows instructions.  
*(wants to know vs. wants a grade)*
- is characterized by being **on time** and **prepared** for class.  
*(diligent and hardworking vs. indifferent and prone to procrastinate)*
- is **eager to learn**, continually **seeks feedback**, and **welcomes correction**.  
*(inquisitive and seeker of wisdom vs. apathetic and aloof)*
- is **seeking mastery** level of the material presented/discussed.  
*(excellence and truth vs. mediocrity and disinterest in the standards)*
- is **resilient** and displays an **attitude of perseverance**.  
*(determined and resolute vs. apathetic and passive)*
- is purposeful in **developing relationships** with teachers and other adults.  
*(mature and wisdom-seeking vs. immature and desiring approval of peers)*
- is **interested in the well-being of others**.  
*(kind and others-centered vs. inconsiderate and self-absorbed)*
- is **determined to grow** in knowledge and favor with God, the One True and Eternal Lord.  
*(God vs. idols)*

As we consider our children's growth and spiritual maturity, let us ask the Lord to give us wisdom and insight as we partner together, being certain to express deep love and affection for our children, and as we seek to measure success rightly.

Blessings,

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