

Achieving Excellence within your Family and Community

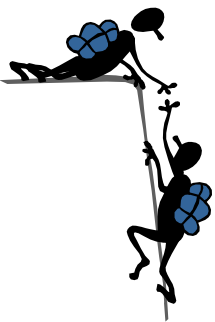
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At Armenta Learning Academy we achieve excellence through education. We believe in modeling a good example to our students and families. Our motto is “EXCELLENCE AT ALL TIMES THROUGH EDUCATION”. However, reaching excellence does not mean perfection; there is a difference. We strive for perfection each minute, each hour, and each day to use our talents, abilities, and skills in the very best way that we can to achieve excellence. It is important to teach and educate children towards these standards of excellence. We have been given these strengths for a reason: to give strength to others. Doing a little extra each time makes a huge impact and difference! We model this to our students, parents, and others throughout the academy; we give all that we have wholeheartedly.

Here are some tips we follow and tips on how you can implement them to teach to your children. These tips can benefit you and your children, creating change in your life as well as in others’ lives.

- Find your passion, something you believe in, and pour your heart into whatever you do. Half-hearted is not enough; make it quality and make a difference. Give 110% - it will be well worth it! You don’t need to save the world, but you can make a difference and save one life at a time starting with the ones you love the most within the family. Then begin to move outside the circle and within the community.
- Teach these concepts and values to your children. Teach them to share their lunch, walk a neighbor’s dog, be nice to a new person at school, etc. Teach these concepts to your children at a very young age and teach your children that every little bit counts. It’s important to teach and model to your children that random acts of kindness pay off with rewards of satisfaction instead of expectations or limitations. Give without expecting back – it usually comes back later! I believe in something called the ‘pendulum theory’, which says that what you give out always comes back. Even if it doesn’t, you have made a difference and changed someone’s life. You and your family will be set apart from others. Give what you can and make it part of your daily routine and part of who you are and what you stand for. Live in the moment; that’s why it’s called the present. This is a present – a gift! We have the opportunity now! Do it now and when and what is in your heart. Give the gift of yourself and your time to make a difference; it doesn’t need to be money, time means so much more.
- Remember to achieve excellence by being extraordinary, not ordinary. We have enough ordinary people in the world. If we all had this attitude, the world would be a better place. By teaching your children, our next generation, to make an impact in the lives of our families, children, community, and world, they will be able to help others and teach their own children; it is a win-win situation! It’s not your responsibility for how what you’ve done is received, but how it is delivered. This is our responsibility as extraordinary people.



Don’t be afraid to learn and grow, creating an environment where you and your children can be challenged. Do not be afraid to ask someone else if you don’t know something. My term for “ASK” is **Always Seek Knowledge**. It’s okay to let your children know you don’t know everything. It gives an opportunity to ask and learn together. What better way to model to your children, than to learn and be with your child, and make a difference together. Challenge yourself to go outside the box and help in an area, population, or situation that may not always be comfortable. Go outside of your comfort zone to comfort others. You will find that this will be one of the most impressionable and rewarding experiences of your lifetime.

I am a firm believer in finding purpose and creating purpose in life. We all have a “calling,” if you have the will, to make a difference. What do you believe in? What moves the emotions within you? What makes you tick? What makes you laugh? What makes you cry? I remember when I was 5 years old. I would be drawn to children and children would be drawn to me. I realized at an early age that this was my purpose, so I tied my love and passion for children to my thirst for knowledge and established my own learning academy. I am so fulfilled and content following my dream, passion, and purpose by making a difference in not only my life but in the lives

of others around me. **This is the ultimate reward for my purpose, plan, and passion. I strive to achieve to make a difference every minute, every hour, every day. I encourage you and your family to do the same; you won't regret it and neither will the world.**

“When there is motivation there is movement.” Teach your children and watch what motivates them. Is it technology, animals, creative arts, etc? Try to tie in their interests, strengths, and gifts to help and inspire others. Once you begin incorporating these hints and tips into your everyday life, it all starts becoming part of your overall life. This is just the beginning; motivation creates great and positive movement in the world. There's no way you can convince people to support an organization or anything you devote your life to, if you don't believe in it. Most people agree that exposing students to community service helps build good, responsible citizens. **Research has shown that students who give their time to others are more likely to enjoy school and excel at their studies. Most end up wanting to attend college due to this experience.**



Once children get started they realize how rewarding it is for them and the people involved. They discover what a joy it is. Usually 80 hours of community service are required for graduation. The average students complete 150 hours of volunteer service. They have already gone above and beyond the requirements! This teaches people life lessons and empowers them no matter what background and status they come from, and teaches that we can give to **all** regardless. Children learn that life lessons and experiences are just as important, if not more, as learning regular curriculum in school. It helps them become responsible, mature, positive role models for our society as well as future leaders for

America. It helps children understand also that there are people less fortunate than other people, and to appreciate their life, family, and community around them. It is important to teach this at a young age, helping it to become a part of their lives and making a lasting and incredible experience for yourself and others.

Here are some questions to get your children started:

- What do you do well? Who do you admire and why?
- What are you passionate about...Animal Rights? Homelessness? Hunger? Education?
- Is there something you want to try?
- If you could work now what would you do?
- If money wasn't an object, how would you spend your free or working time?

Here are some ideas:

- ❖ Volunteer at state or local parks
- ❖ Beach, park, or community center clean up
- ❖ Serve at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter
- ❖ Make cards and games for hospitalized children
- ❖ Walk a dog or care for animals at a shelter
- ❖ Type your city name and “volunteer” into an Internet search engine to see what comes up
- ❖ Visit the elderly – read, sing and talk to them. Learn from their stories
- ❖ Get involved with churches, temples, cultural and community centers, etc.

❖ **Websites:** www.idealists.org

www.volunteercenter.org

www.oc.ca.gov/hr/volunteer/volunteer.asp

www.bbbsa.org

www.standupforkids.org

www.habitatoc.org



Achieving excellence is accomplished not through just what you have accomplished for yourself but also through what you have done to impact the lives of the people around you, whether they be your family, friends, or community. Discover how improving the well being of others can only lead to your own self-awareness and inner excellence, and teach these valuable lessons and experiences to your children. What better way to pass these beautiful values down from generation to generation, and change a life one at a time, and make the world a better place!