**Vocabulary of Character**

**Leadership is...**

*Understanding that one’s identity, success, and happiness are inseparable from one’s communities and acting in ways that help those communities realize their essential purpose.*

**Three stages of leadership**: engaging, serving, coordinating

**Three fundamental attitudes**: positive, neutral, negative

**Definitions of key concepts:**

**virtue**: an acquired habitual excellent quality that helps a being be what it is. For example, sharpness is a virtue of a knife because it helps it cut; empathy is a virtue of a father because it helps him care for his children.

**vice**: an acquired habitual deplorable quality that keeps a being from being what it is. For example, dullness keeps a knife from cutting. Often, a virtue will have two types of vices associated with it: vices of deficiency and vices of excess, such as a deficiency of bravery in a soldier being cowardice, an excess being rashness.

**character**: one’s capacity to give care; virtues – vices = character.

**internal goods**: are active and come from performing complex activities that have been gradually mastered through practice. Standing poised at the free throw line, confidently focusing and setting your body in motion, and shooting a free throw that gets all net manifests internal goods. Purposefully and skillfully writing an excellent essay after years of gradual progress also manifests internal goods.

**external goods**: passive goods that come from outside of the actions, often as payment. The money you earn from your job and the status you may get from living in a preferred neighborhood are external goods.

**responsibility:** feeling internally compelled to give reciprocal care back to our communities in their need in response to our awareness of how much we have been given.

**sustainability**: the essential moderate quality of a practice that protects the conditions of its own possibility. For example, telling the truth sustains the trust needed to tell the truth, while lying undermines the trust needed to lie; telling the truth is sustainable, while lying is not. Sustainable practices support the communities that contain the practices and, thus, sustainability is a cornerstone of ethics.

**ethics**: the repeated and sustainable habits that lead to thriving for communities and individuals/virtues that govern a community’s behavior

**empathy**: the virtue that enables us to understand and share the feelings of another.

**compassion**: feeling and understanding the experiences and life-outcomes of another person as though they were one’s own.

**generosity**: a willingness to give more than is necessary or expected; a willingness to lay aside resentment and to forgive injuries; magnanimity; fair-mindedness.

**honor**: the virtue of holding oneself to the highest code of conduct possible in order to lead one’s communities best and thereby earn the respect of others; the quality of being known to keep one’s spoken “word” or promise

**honesty**: the quality of having and displaying strong moral principles, especially with regard to lying, cheating, or stealing; fair dealing, truthfulness, and integrity

**courage**: determination in the face of pain, risk, or grief.

**growth**-**mindedness**: attention to openness, development, and improvement.

**wisdom**: the power to judge rightly; seeing the world as it is, not how it seems to be.

**1) What communities am I a part of? Identify 4-5 communities that play the most significant roles in supporting and shaping my identity.**

**2) Since our working definition of leadership is ethically moving *sustainable communities* (i.e. communitites whose actions and values sustain/support them and do not undermine them) toward realizing their goals, it is important that each community at school tries to make its goals at clear and rich as possible. Pick *one* of the communities you help lead and write some goals of that group.**