

Rights and Responsibilities

Corinne Hancock, Director of Leadership

"I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty."

-John D. Rockefeller, Jr.



RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Students at Aspen Academy are exploring this concept that is inherent within the fibers of our American culture: Rights and Responsibilities. We are taking the time to really uncover what this means. We first want to get at the heart of the concept: rights are inseparable from responsibilities. All people are given rights at birth, or they are earned through working hard (i.e. freedom, choices, opportunities). A responsibility is associated with each of the rights we have. It is a duty, most often the duty to make good choices. Students need to understand the importance of exercising the rights we are given, as well as the possibility that those rights can easily be lost when we make poor choices or violate the rights of others.

Ultimately, we want our children to know what their basic rights are, but we also want them to feel and fulfill the sense of duty tied thereto. We strive to raise children, community members, and leaders that do not take this concept for granted. Children will take part in activities and lessons that help them fully realize the following: "I understand that all people have basic rights and should exercise those rights freely. I will actively preserve and protect both my own rights, and the rights of others. I will also identify the responsibilities connected with these rights and that there are consequences for every choice I make."

Want to explore this concept at home? Take an opportunity when sitting around the dinner table to discuss the rights and responsibilities in your household. What rights do your children have as they live under your roof? What responsibilities are attached? Remember that children first learn the concept of a community in their very own homes.