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| Building Tomorrow Leaders Ridgecrest Elementary\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_For Thursday March 4th  |

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This month we start ***Dependability: I am reliable, others can trust me, I make good on my promises and keep on task.*** Our precept for the month is, ***When my legacy is written would you rather write it in the stars or carve it in the sand?***

Dependability means that a leader can be relied upon not only to **perform one’s duties in a proper manner and with integrity**, but in so doing building the trust and accountability that result. A leader makes and keeps commitments, has the discipline to avoid procrastination, and puts forth a full effort to complete a task.

When you think of the word dependability, does someone come to mind who embodies this trait? If so, why? Do you have a view of yourself as a dependable person? And if not, why not?

So, how can you develop dependability as a leadership trait?

• Accomplish the task. Don’t be dissuaded by obstacles; instead, find ways around them. Problems are inevitable, so developing a tightly focused, results-driven, problem-solver mentality is a must. Keep a keen eye on the timelines, involve others as needed, and ensure that progress is maintained.

• Don’t offer excuses or blame others. The world is saturated with excuse-makers who attempt to deflect responsibility. A leader who avoids responsibility and blames others for shortcomings will eventually lose all credibility, both up and down the chain of command. A dependable leader is always accountable, and in so doing accepts the blame when things don’t go as planned.

• Keep the commitments you make. If you say you’re going to do something, then do it. Simple as that. A commitment is your word, your promise, and by not keeping that commitment you are risking the trust that you may have previously earned.

• Show up on time, every time. Being tardy shows a lack of discipline but more importantly displays a lack of respect for the time of others. Little things count, and this is one that counts heavily. In this regard, being dependable means being prompt, on time, and attentive. It sets a standard that should apply to everyone, especially leaders.