



Gaston County Schools Leadership Academy

Leadership Academy at W.C. Friday Middle School Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Leadership Academy at W.C. Friday Middle School?

The purpose of the Leadership Academy at W.C. Friday Middle School and *The Leader in Me* (LiM) model is to serve as an introduction to personal leadership. *The Leader in Me* teaches 21st-century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

2. What is The Leader in Me?

The Leader in Me (LiM) is an evidence-based, comprehensive school improvement model—developed in partnership with educators—that empowers students with leadership and life-skills. The process includes student participation in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, student-led conferences, leadership environments, and leadership events.

Instead of focusing on academic measures alone, *The Leader in Me* embodies a holistic approach to education, redefining how schools measure success. This approach empowers educators with effective practices and tools to:

- teach LEADERSHIP to every student,
- create a CULTURE of student empowerment,
- and align systems to drive results in ACADEMICS.

3. What are the requirements for admissions to the Academy?

Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics. The parent/legal guardian must be residents of Gaston County.

4. Who can apply to the Leadership Academy at W.C. Friday Middle School and how are students selected?

Incoming sixth grade students may apply. Rising seventh graders may apply with limited seats available.



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5. What are the requirements for continued enrollment?

The parent/legal guardian must maintain residency in Gaston County. Students must be in good standing including appropriate attendance, behavior, and academics.

6. What schools are implementing *The Leader in Me*?

Costner Elementary, W.C. Friday Middle and North Gaston High will implement *The Leader in Me* framework. Students do not need to have attended Costner Elementary to apply.

7. What will my child gain from this program?

The Leader in Me helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond. Specifically, *The Leader in Me* focuses on students learning the following 21st century skills:

Student self-confidence
Responsibility
Self-direction
Social etiquette

Teamwork
Communication
Leadership

Initiative
Creativity
Problem solving

8. How much time is being spent on *The Leader in Me* process in the classroom on a daily basis?

The leadership principles and lessons are incorporated across content areas as an enhancement of everyday learning.

9. What activities will middle school students do to build leadership?

Students at each grade level will learn the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, and work through *The Leader in Me* journals to practice and deepen their understanding of those habits- working from the inside out. First by growing their ability to effectively lead themselves, then by growing the skills necessary to lead others. Students will practice and demonstrate those skills as they experience a variety of leadership and service opportunities in the Dallas community.



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10. What is the earliest I can drop my child off and the latest I can pick up my child?

7:30 a.m. Drop Off and 4:00 p.m. Pick Up

11. What are The 7 Habits and how do middle school students use them?

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People	Principles	Application Using Age-Appropriate Language for Students
<i>Habit 1: Be Proactive</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiative • Responsibility • Choice • Accountability 	You're in Charge: "I am a responsible person. I take initiative to make things happen. I choose my own actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame other people for my mistakes. I focus on the things I can influence.
<i>Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Planning • Purpose 	Have a Plan: "I plan ahead. I know how to set and achieve goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and purpose.
<i>Habit 3: Put First Things First</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization • Organization • Discipline 	Work First, Then Play: "I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things that are less important. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized."
<i>Habit 4: Think Win-Win</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration • Courage • Mutual benefit • Fairness 	Everyone Can Win: "I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I build good relationships with others by being kind, saying sorry when needed, and keeping commitments. When conflicts arise, I look for options that work for both sides."
<i>Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect • Mutual understanding • Empathy 	Listen Before You Talk: "I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking."
<i>Habit 6: Synergize</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity • Cooperation • Diversity • Humility 	Together Is Better: "I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different from me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems.
<i>Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal • Health and wellness • Continuous improvement • Balance 	Balance Feels Best: "I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others. I am balanced."