



Gaston County Schools
Leadership
Academy

Leadership Academy at Costner Elementary School
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Leadership Academy?

The purpose of the Leadership Academy at Costner Elementary School and *The Leader in Me* (LiM) model is to serve as an introduction to personal leadership.

The Leadership Academy will help students to develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond. *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

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

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

3. Who can apply to the Leadership Academy and how are students selected?

Incoming kindergarten students may apply.

4. What are the requirements for continued enrollment?

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

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

W.C. Friday Middle and North Gaston are implementing *The Leader in Me* framework as well.



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6. 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

7. 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.

8. What activities will elementary school students do to build leadership?

Students will participate in a community service project, job shadowing with the Town of Dallas Local Government, and Junior Achievement/BizTown.

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

7:00am Drop Off and 3:00pm Pick Up



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10. What are The 7 Habits and how do elementary 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." |

Based on Stephen Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, this framework incorporates these timeless habits into a K-12 framework for students to apply in their daily lives.