

Student Insights

What three SGS seniors learned from the Dragon Leadership Academy

John DeForest

I began the Dragon Leadership Academy with a vague concept of what a leader was, and came away knowing that it was more important to understand how to be a leader. I really enjoyed all the guest speakers that Coach R brought in to discuss with us the different aspects and philosophies that define different types of leaders. They helped us figure out what kind of positive change we wanted to enact with our own leadership endeavors.

We developed and refined the way we thought about leadership in a community setting, and also worked on concrete artifacts to better our individual skills. I look forward to applying my newfound understandings and ideas to projects and initiatives both within and outside the SGS community, whether academic, athletic, or service-oriented.

Aidan Reichel

The Dragon Leadership Academy has helped me identify ways to improve as a leader in my communities. The speakers not only shared how they impact the communities or organizations they lead but gave a unique perspective about how they utilize strategies, ideologies, and community-building techniques to effectively lead. The workshop exercises helped to analyze different leaders in different organizations and locations. When we analyze different leaders, we begin to see the bigger picture and how they create a dedicated following.

I can use what I have learned in the Academy to help make better decisions when I am in leadership roles. Whether I am helping out Melanie Mildrew with an outdoor trip or leading my friends, I now have the ability to lead confidently in whatever situation I might find myself.

In the Dragon Leadership Academy, students were asked to write a first version of their "Leadership Purpose Statement." This assignment asked them to think of a specific leadership role that they are currently in or hope to be in. Here is one example, along with her response to identifying three attributes of a leader:

Cambrie Rickard Purpose Statement:

Creating relationships through kindness and trust that will make everyone around me better.

Three Attributes of a Leader: Considerate

Being considerate means seeing the bigger picture. As a team member, I would want to be able to see other people's perspectives before making decisions and I would want the same from others. A specific way to practice being considerate is by not assuming things and talking to people directly.

Collaborative

Collaboration within team members is always crucial for success. Effective collaboration means that the workload is spread out where it should be. For example, sometimes that would mean that each member has an equal amount of work to do. Other times it could mean that the work is spread out to the members who can do the best work in each field. Either way, collaboration is important and necessary and there must be a balance between independent work and collaboration.

Hard-working

This is fairly obvious, I would think. But no one likes being on a team with people who don't put in the work and still expect success. If you work hard for your teammates, they will work hard for you.



Aidan Reichel leading an Outdoor Club hike in North Idaho's wilderness