

## **Mavericks in the Front**



Here at La Costa Canyon High School we have a certain way of doing things. We call it the Maverick Way. The Maverick Way is one of grace and style, ingrained with a sense of pride so strong that it may only be described as honor. Folks know us when they see us, because we always do our very best, and for this reason alone, we stand out.

Our character, our honor, is such an important part of the Maverick Way that it is, in fact, used to describe the Four Pillars upon which this great edifice of La Costa Canyon High School stands. When you understand the Four Pillars – Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, and Kindness – you understand what it is to be a Maverick and are prepared to live the Maverick Way and to call La Costa Canyon High School your own.

There are many different ways to describe and appreciate the qualities exemplified by our Four Pillars. I tend toward coaching and athletic metaphors. Coaches have so often been among my own very best teachers, and the greatest and best coaches understand, that above and beyond all else, they are teachers.

### **Respect**

Chuck Noll, who coached the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl titles once said, "I would rather play well and lose than play poorly and win." What Noll was talking about was respect. Not only respect for your opponent and competitor, but most importantly for yourself. Winning is not the only thing. Winning is not everything. The only and the every is you. Can you look yourself in the mirror and know that you did your very best? If so, you can respect yourself, and know that others will feel the same.

### **Responsibility**

John Wooden coached the UCLA Bruins to 10 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships. Wooden would say, "Success is the peace of mind that is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming." He is talking about responsibility, responsibility not only to yourself but to your entire community. If you always do your very best, you will be responsible, you will be successful, you will be a Maverick.

### **Trustworthiness**

Trust is about letting go – letting go of self-interest, misconceptions, prejudice, and bias. Trust is about innocence. Pat Riley, you may remember him – Lakers, Knicks, Heat. Riley values trust, saying, "When a gifted team dedicates itself to unselfish trust and combines instinct with boldness and effort – it is ready to climb."

## Kindness

Ralph Waldo Emerson didn't coach anybody, unless you want to count Henry David Thoreau, and if you want to count that, we can say he coached a champion too. Emerson once said, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself."

Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, and Kindness – the Maverick Way – As we embark upon this great adventure – another school year – please join together with all of us in the La Costa Canyon High School Community in supporting three goals, all ascribed to the principles of our Four Pillars:

1. **Academic Achievement:** In all that you do, whether discussion and dialogue, question and answer, homework, classwork, essays, or tests, do it with gusto, enthusiasm, earnestness, and great industry – simply, do your best. Do Your Best! We can never ask for more. You should never settle for less.
2. **Sportsmanship:** Adhere to the well respected principles of CIF's *Pursuing Victory with Honor*. Win with class, and should we happen to lose, do so with grace. Cheer for the Mavericks. Cheer for the worthiness of our opponents. Never boo. Never deride an official or an opposing player or team.
3. **Safe, Sober and Drug Free:** Alcohol and Drugs have no place in your life. Say it and Live it. "Alcohol and Drugs have no place in my life!" You didn't need drugs or alcohol to have fun when you were 6, or when you were 10, and you don't need them now. Be safe. Be sober. Be drug free.

Mavericks in the Front!

**-Craig Lewis**

*Principal – La Costa Canyon High School*

*"Game Called. Upon the field of life the darkness gathers far and wide, the dream is done, the score is spun that stands forever in the guide. Nor victory, nor yet defeat is chalked against the players name. But down the roll, the final scroll, shows only how he played the game."*

**– Grantland Rice**