

On the green fields and tall buildings of 10600 Preston Road, students push hard — and not just in one dimension. They dominate math competitions. They win National Spelling Bees. And they carry home SPC championships. But while the halls of this school forge accomplishment, many students themselves aim to be judged on more than just their tangible strengths.

As such, the school has maintained a reputation by producing resourceful and creative leaders; The Path to Manhood program, at the end of the day, is what drives this success. From a young age, students learn leadership skills and qualities they can use the rest of their lives.

“The Path to Manhood is understanding the impact you can have on others and keeping it on the forefront of your mind as to not affect others negatively,” senior **Michael Vanesko** said.

In first, second and third grade, the boys embrace the Path to Manhood through their teachers and experiences. Even without having a separate course on the subject, instructors find methods to incorporate leadership teachings in their day-to-day classes. Whether through assignments or lectures, core values are taught. And even lower schoolers pick up on the messages. By talking to their senior buddies, the youngest Marksmen have already started their trek on the Path to Manhood.

“My last senior buddy was [Lincoln Dales ‘20],” fourth grader **Jacob Santosuosso** said. “He talked to me about being a leader and about how it’s important to be nice to each other and set a true example.”

In the fourth grade, students are exposed to their first concrete Path to Manhood class: Telos 4. An external course taught by upperclassman, the experience embodies a true Marksman’s qualities. Students are taught the importance of participating in an extracurricular activity, observing nature and partaking in other necessary lessons that can have an impact both inside and outside the classroom.

“Telos 4 showed me good lessons about things like nature and the Pecos trip,” fourth grader **Timmy Strauss** said. “It taught me to not only talk to friends but also appreciate the prettiness of nature during any trip.”

In Middle School, the Path to Manhood’s importance and impact exponentially increases. Advisories frequently complete activities such as self-reflections through writing timelines of life-changing events, and during eighth grade, students are charged with meeting with a younger advisory and giving presentations about life skills.

“The Path to Manhood activities and lessons have taught me to be independent and engage with others,” eighth grader **Will Clifford** said. “I think it can be overlooked or undervalued, but I really have noticed its impact on who I am as a person by recognizing my own values and how similar they are to those we learn throughout Telos.”

WE ARE A TIGHT KNIT COMMUNITY, AND YOUNGER MARKSMEN SEE AND LEARN A LOT FROM UPPERCLASSMEN. THE ETHOS PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE PARTS OF THIS PLACE.

— JUNIOR **JAMES FULTS**

Besides teaching about the qualities essential to leadership, the Path to Manhood also shows middle schoolers study-related tools. During class meetings, sponsors create presentations to advise Marksmen on how to approach assignments, tests and increased workloads.

“While these activities do give us virtues to learn, they also show us how important they are in the real world and how they can be applied,” fifth grader **David Waterman** said.

Upper School is where students will experience their most rigorous journeys and understand the most valuable lessons along the Path to Manhood. Similar to Middle School, freshmen and sophomores frequently participate in advisory-based activities. Sophomores are tasked with a character reflection and dissection.

“While I still have two years left of school, I feel that I am finally truly understanding the importance of The Path to Manhood,” sophomore **Rapha Mitterer-Claudet** said. “I have become a better person, teammate and classmate by applying the virtues I learned in advisory to the real world.”

Senior year is the pinnacle of the Path to Manhood. Seniors are paired with little buddies, which provides the tiniest Lions on campus the opportunity to get to know the school from wizened souls. These conversations give seniors a direct outlet to influence and positively affect other community members. Utilizing these connections with young students, seniors have the ability to reverberate their views of the Path to Manhood throughout the school to leave their mark before departing.

“My biggest interaction with other divisions is through my little buddy,” Vanesko said. “During these opportunities, I try to instill core values in him. I try my best to teach him about tenets older boys have taught me in the past.”

Although seniors will not be taking any more classes surrounding ethos ideology, they are not necessarily finished walking the path. Alumni still showcase our community values on a national scale. Notable alumni such as *New York Times* best-selling author **Emanuel Acho** ‘08, Memphis Grizzlies head coach **Taylor Jenkins** ‘03 and noted undersea explorer **Victor Vescovo** ‘84 have shown the world the power of the Path to Manhood. Regardless of which grade, sport or class students are in, each Marksman receives the proper education to truly change the world for the better.

“I’ve just reinforced the notion that I’ve already had,” Vescovo said. “We, as humans, are capable of so much more than we often believe; and with a lot of planning, organization and self-discipline combined with like-minded people and a healthy level of financial resources, almost anything is possible. Sometimes you just have to have heart for things to get better in this world.”

HEAD HEART HANDS

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Runs deep The school seeks to instill the values of ethos, logos and pathos in its students to help foster growth and thriving.