

more than smart: why character is *critical*

a presentation by Joe Cavanaugh

Fountain Hills USD Parent Night
Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at 6:30-8:00pm in the Multipurpose Room
All parents welcome!

For nearly 30 years Joe Cavanaugh, Founder & CEO of Youth Frontiers, Inc., has been working with schools to build the character of young people--because if character decreases, disrespect increases. There is a "crisis" in character among our youth: according to the Josephson Institute, 90% of teens believe that "honesty and trust are essential in personal relationships," yet 82% of these kids admit they lied to their parents in the past year about something significant and 60% of these kids surveyed cheated on a test during the past year.

Joe will discuss this disconnect and give tangible tips and strategies for parents and community leaders to bridge the gap between belief and action. Joe will center the discussion around the following four core values:

- **temperance:** How do we as adults not overindulge our kids, but rather teach them self-restraint and self-discipline, two key qualities to being a successful adult?
- **humility:** How do we teach our kids to win and lose graciously?
- **respect:** How do we teach our kids to be civil and courteous given the rising prevalence of technologies that interrupt our relationships, and give way to cyberbullying over the internet and cell phones?
- **moral courage:** To paraphrase Edmund Burke, the only way for evil people to succeed is for the vast majority of good people to do nothing. How do we teach our kids to follow their hearts and not the crowd? We need to give our kids the tools to stand up for respect, humility, temperance, compassion, integrity and honesty.

Finally, Joe will discuss the importance of teaching kids how to *be good*, and not just helping them feel good.



Joe Cavanaugh is a nationally-known advocate promoting timeless values and personal character to audiences of all ages. Joe has nearly 3 decades of experience working with young people. In 1987, Joe founded Youth Frontiers, Inc., a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization that delivers programs to improve school climate and strengthen student character. In 20 years of working with schools, Youth Frontiers' work has impacted nearly 1 million students and educators nationwide.

