INTRODUCTION

It is often said, “If everyone does his or her job, there are few problems.” At school a student is doing his or her job if he or she acts responsibly. Being cooperative, studying, and following the rules are examples of being responsible.

When you do not act responsibly, it hurts your chance of being successful now and later. Not being a responsible student can result in poor grades and getting into trouble. Bad habits can haunt you as an adult. A grown-up who is not responsible will find it hard to get and keep a job.

Other people are effected when just one person is not responsible. When a student walks into class late, everyone is disturbed. A student who talks out of turn bothers the others. It is not fair to other students when they have to sit at a messy lunch table just because the students before them were too lazy to pick up after themselves.

This packet gives you a chance to discover the importance of being responsible. Perhaps by reading about other students who have problems being responsible you will realize the need for you to make improvements in this area.

SCENES FROM A SCHOOL

LARRY WORKS ON RUINING HIS FUTURE

Larry’s grades at school are not good. One of the reasons he has poor grades is because he refuses to take responsibility for himself. He shows no interest in school. His work is sloppy and usually not complete. Larry’s teachers have talked with him often about improving his work. “Yea, yea, I’ll try harder the next time,” Larry says. But his teachers know that he doesn’t mean it.

Larry doesn’t do much at home either. His room is always a mess. And he never helps around the house. His mom has to argue with him to get him to do
anything. All Larry wants to do is watch television, text his friends and eat and sleep.

It wasn’t long before Larry’s problems at school became much worse. He got into the habit of coming to class late. Then he started showing up without his books or paper. It seemed whatever he needed for class was left in his locker. His teacher had to write him a pass to go back to his locker. While Larry was out of class, supposedly getting his books, he would stop for a drink. Then he would stop off in the washroom. And of course Larry took his time walking back to class.

It won’t be long before Larry drops out of school completely. Larry doesn’t realize how he is ruining his future. His parents and teachers see what he is doing to himself.

SUE GOES TOO FAR FOR HER OWN GOOD

Sue was given a detention for being late to class. She asked Mr. Roe, the assistant principal, if she could serve her detention another day. Sue had cheerleading tryouts that day and didn’t want to miss them. She pleaded with Mr. Roe to serve it another day. Mr. Roe agreed to let her serve it the following day after school.

Sue never showed up for her postponed detention. Mr. Roe was upset. He felt that Sue was given a break and had taken advantage of him.

The next day the lunchroom supervisor saw Mr. Roe about another matter concerning Sue. He told Mr. Roe that Sue was leaving the lunchroom before the lunch period was over. She was seen outside the school smoking a cigarette.

Mr. Roe called Sue to his office. When confronted with what she had been doing, she started crying. She told Mr. Roe that everything in her life was going wrong. Her grades were slipping and she was having problems with her parents. Sue realizes that she is headed for trouble.

Mr. Roe told Sue that she would be punished for cutting detention and smoking but that he would ask a counselor to speak with her about her problems. Sue agreed that she could use the counseling and that she would serve her punishment.
REASONS FOR NOT BEING RESPONSIBLE

You need to believe in what you are doing if you are going to be successful. A person must be motivated to learn, to achieve and to do what is right. The more you care about something, the harder you will work for it. Try putting school at the top of your list.

Students who are not responsible think only about what pleases them. They don’t want to do the work that is necessary to be successful. Some might say they are just lazy. They do the bare minimum, or just enough to get by. Do you know anyone like this?

Often such students feel the same about school rules as they do about school work. They think the rules are for everyone else. They have their own set of rules. Eventually these students find that such an approach does not work. The rules are for everyone, not just for some.

A bad attitude has never helped anyone to be responsible. Make sure you have a positive attitude toward school and school work. And make certain you are willing to cooperate with people. Following this advice will help you be a more responsible person.

RESULTS OF NOT BEING RESPONSIBLE

Many different things can happen when a student does not act responsibly. Usually, the consequences are not good. Some outcomes are immediate while others are seen much later. A student who does not try his hardest now may find doors to good colleges or jobs closed tomorrow.

Parents and teachers get upset when they see you not trying to do what is right. They want you to do well. Teachers and parents can’t do the work for you. And they can’t be with you to make sure you follow all the school rules. Listen to their advice and try to improve.

Students who get in the habit of not being responsible may blame others for their problems. A student might say that it was the teacher’s fault he got bad grades. Later, he may tell his parents that he got a zero on the project because the
teacher lost it, when truthfully the project was never done. Excuses only lead to more excuses. Soon people begin to lose faith in what you say.

It is usually easier to work hard than to make excuses for yourself. People will learn to respect and depend upon you if you show that you can be responsible. They will trust you to do the right thing. And they will respect your judgment.

**PREVENTING IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR**

To become more responsible you have to first admit that you have a problem. You then must decide to do something about the problem. You have to be willing to make a change. Ask people whom you respect to help you become more responsible. Be open to ideas from them. They can offer advice and tell you how you can improve.

Set a goal that can lead you toward improvement. A goal is your plan for making a positive change. Try to complete your goal.
STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET 1  BEING RESPONSIBLE

NAME

CLASS  DATE

Now that you have read the packet on being responsible, you should be able to answer the questions below. Think about what you have read and what you have done as you answer these questions. Let your complete and thorough answers demonstrate how you are going to handle this problem.

If you need additional space to answer a question, please use the space on the reverse side of the page. Should you have any questions about this material, please ask the person who gave you the packet.

1. Why do you think you have been asked to read this packet and answer these questions?

2. In your own words, what does it mean to be responsible?

3. In what ways are you not meeting some of your responsibilities?
STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET 1  BEING RESPONSIBLE

4. Why would Larry not be considered responsible?

5. Do you think Sue acted in a responsible manner? Explain your answer.

6. What advice would you give Larry to help him be more responsible?

7. Why would someone want to avoid getting a reputation for being irresponsible?

8. Write a goal to help you become more responsible.
STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET 2

BEING RESPONSIBLE

NAME

CLASS

DATE

Now that you have read the packet on **being responsible**, you should be able to answer the questions below. Think about what you have read and what you have done as you answer these questions. Let your complete and thorough answers demonstrate how you are going to handle this problem.

If you need additional space to answer a question, please use the space on the reverse side of the page. Should you have any questions about this material, please ask the person who gave you the packet.

1. When you get bad grades you might have to stay after school to make up work. This is called an immediate problem. What problems might there be in the future for not doing well in school?

2. Explain why you have been given this packet. How have you not been responsible?

3. You probably expect your doctor to act responsibly. You probably also expect the auto mechanic to do a good job when he fixes your car. How can you expect other people to be responsible when you are not? Explain your answer.
4. Name three good things that can happen if you act responsibly.

5. Who do you think has a better chance at succeeding in life, Sue or Larry? Explain your answer.

6. List several things that responsible students think are important for success at school.

7. You may have heard the old saying, “If it is worth doing, it is worth doing right.” What does this mean and how can this saying help you?

8. Write a goal that will help you to become a more responsible person.
STUDENT RESPONSE PUZZLE

BEING RESPONSIBLE

NAME

DATE

Across
4. It is usually easier to work hard than to make these for yourself
5. Larry started showing up to class without paper and these
8. Bad habits can haunt you as an ______
9. Sue was seen outside of the school doing this
10. A goal is your plan for making a positive one of these

Down
1. Sue had these tryouts the day of her detention
2. Larry refuses to take this for himself
3. These are meant for everyone, not just for some people
6. A person at school who will talk to Sue about her problems
7. A bad one of these has never helped anyone be responsible