

# PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



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## *Perspectives From A Teacher-Parent*

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Our Director of Admissions, Victoria Carter, wrote an article that appeared in the last Leadership Monthly, where she discussed being a first-time parent. You can read that article [here](#). At the end of this school year, I will complete my twentieth year of teaching at Prince, my twenty-third year in classroom education, and approximately forty years of working in some type of educational field. During this time, many things have changed such as technology and the access to information, social media, economics, and the value Americans place on religion; however, children of any age and size desire the same things--love, attention, and security.



My husband and I have two children, both of whom graduated from Prince Avenue Christian School. Our daughter graduated from Prince in 2007, received a degree from Valdosta State University, and lives in another state where she is working in the interior design business. Our son graduated from Prince in 2009, completed a degree from the University of Georgia, is married, and lives overseas where he and his wife teach at a language academy. Now that we are several years removed from high school and college graduation, and both children are self-supporting, we have had time to reflect upon how we parented our children. I do not consider myself a parenting expert; however, I hope these insights from my years in education and as an older parent will be helpful to you.

1. Prepare your child for the road, and do not prepare the road for your child. It is difficult to see our children struggle; however, it is not possible to go through life without hardships. We can encourage and teach our children, but they will encounter challenges that are out of our control and their control. When we teach them responsibility,

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perseverance, patience, and dependence upon God, we are preparing them to be independent of us, but dependent on God. Allow children to experience failure while they are under your guidance. Once they move out to attend college, you have very little influence over their daily life.



2. Surround your children with a support system of teachers, coaches, directors, youth group leaders, and relatives. Most of us will encounter a time when our children will not listen to our counsel, but they will listen to the counsel of someone else. You want that “someone” else to have your values and beliefs. It truly takes a village to raise a child. We can tell our children the same thing over and over, but often they will not listen until they hear that advice from someone else.

3. Parent with the end goal in mind. It is easy to take a shortcut when we are tired, hurried, ill, or frustrated. Oftentimes, it is not easy to say “no” or stand firm on our convictions. Each time we give in to the easy route, the next “no” is much harder. God has given us the role of Parent and not of Friend. Our children have friends, but you are their only parents. Children need us to provide boundaries and a safe place to express themselves.
4. Stay on your knees and in God’s Word. Seek the wisdom of older parents. When we are willing to study the Bible and ask God for wisdom, He willingly provides what we need to parent our children.

Parenting children is one of the greatest challenges and greatest blessings in life. As a teacher and administrator at Prince Avenue Christian School, it is a privilege to partner with our families as we seek to fulfill the mission statement of our school: “To partner with Christian families to provide scripturally based discipleship while pursuing excellence in the academics, fine arts and athletics from a biblical worldview.”