Character Building and Leadership (CBL) is a new program, which has been integrated into the PSIS curriculum in order to enhance students’ learning and morality.

RESPECT

There are many ways to show our respect towards others. In Cambodia, people join their palms together and bow in order to salute or greet each other.

October was the month of respect. It was such a great pleasure to teach Khmer youth to follow and defend our important tradition. After the course introduction in the first week, CBL educators have encouraged all students to respect everyone in return for their value and honor.

Students were shy when they initially practiced Sompeah to their teachers and classmates; however, their attitude changed positively after they knew the deeper meaning and overwhelming pros of respect.

Student Reactions

The majority of students have enjoyed our course so far. They like listening to motivational stories and watching short educational videos.

It is great to see our youth showing respect to their teachers both in and out of school.
Mr. Justin Dara Op, Special Assistant to the President of Pannasastra University of Cambodia, spent his time attending 2 of Louk Krou Peou’s classes, 12D and 12F. In the photo below, he is shown lecturing on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and explaining the meaning of each habit. He encouraged them to read and try to change their bad habits by following the book’s guidance. He noted that he was once one of those arrogant boys back in high school, but his time of maturity came when the Pol Pot regime began. He emphasized, “Try to be humble, as the teenage stage doesn’t last forever.”

Students didn’t have many questions after the speech, so it is difficult to tell whether they will examine their own negative habits. However, they were completely quiet during the lecture as they listened attentively, which was a positive step in the right direction.

We have taught our students not only to respect each other, but also the environment. Students were told to pick up the trash next to their seats at the end of each class. We have received compliments from some of the building workers at PSIS. Miss Yann Pov, a janitor at PSIS, came and told our team that she was grateful for our help. She said, “The classrooms have become 50% cleaner than the year before.” Another janitor, Miss Kry Chounnaiy, came into Louk Krou Hak’s class at 5 p.m. and said, “You know, before your team came, it was like a mountain of trash after the end of the last session in this class (10E), but now I can say it’s a huge change. Thank you, Louk Krou, and your team.” We are committed to keeping our classrooms clean in order to give students a desirable learning environment.
Pushing students to the next level is our mission, so we educate them both in and out of the classroom—each CBL educator plays an important role as a counselor.

We have solved more than 10 problems with different students, and we have not received any negative feedback so far.

Students who have been invited to the CBL office mostly had problems with their studies or classmates. Even so, helping students with their family issues is also our duty.

We are proud to say that we have successfully sorted out a serious issue with a student from 9A. Our team talked to both sides and found out it was just a misunderstanding between her and her parents. We counseled them on being emotionally tolerant and learning to understand each other’s difficulties. Their relationship has been restored after many years of difficulty.

We continue to educate students who come to us for advice: to accept their peers and show respect to their teachers and school staff, take personal responsibility for their actions, and make amends to relationships when necessary.
All hard work pays off in the end!

The validation of the school’s monthly admirable judgment is one of the most important activities in our school calendar. The intention of this activity is to encourage every student in our school to demonstrate excellence and character both at school and at home. We select the best performing students every month based on their attitude, behavior, class participation and performance.

Showing respect to their parents by using the proper Khmer greeting (Sampeah), which is one of the assignments given to our students. Some students hesitated to do it because they had never done it before. However, we were able to encourage them to do it by showing them the advantages that follow such a noble act: good feelings, honor, humbleness, and self-respect, among others.