

SCHOLARSHIP

The light of the gold candle signifies the gold of wisdom. Even as the glow of this candle widens the circle of light, every additional bit of information enlarges the horizon of one's world. Scholarship, it has been said, is the power which eliminates ignorance, superstition, and fear. Scholarship teaches us of the past so we may anticipate our future. Woodrow Wilson said, "The educated man is to be discovered by his point of view, by temper of his mind, by his attitude towards life, and his fair way of thinking. He can see, he can discriminate, he can combine ideas and perceive whether they lead: he has insight and comprehension. His mind is a practiced instrument of appreciation.

Although much more can be said, we should realize that the values gained from our education repay us a thousand-fold for the time spent in obtaining our education. Scholarship is an important ingredient for a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

CITIZENSHIP

The flame from the blue candle represents citizenship. I like to think it was taken from the colors of our country. Our citizenship implies unity of purpose and unselfishness in striving for the common good. We may remember the strength of Nathan Hale's "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country." It is here that we learn the principles of citizenship and to love our country. It is here that we learn of those before us who have served this country well. Each of us here must accept the challenge of citizenship.

SERVICE

The light from the red candle represents the unselfish courage which gives service to our country, school, and community. Those who serve others are repaid with satisfaction and a feeling of goodwill that comes from within.

Service really begins with the way we treat each other. The small courtesies of “excuse me” and “thank you” are related to the concept of service as they build goodwill and friendship.

As we build goodwill, our ability to serve expands as we then endeavor to do more for others. We begin now to practice these small principles of service, and become richer for it.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership is represented by the royal color of purple. Leadership, in order to benefit mankind, must proceed from unselfish motives. It requires a constant denial of self, a genuine affection for others, and the ability to begin and complete a job.

Leadership in school is demonstrated in many ways. It may mean holding an office in a school club, participating in the band or on a team, or by standing up for a principle you know to be right. Not all leaders hold office, but usually they do the right thing and they lead by their every action. Today there is an increasing demand for ethical leadership in every field of endeavor. Good leaders are needed in government, industry, education, religion, and business. Each of us is challenged by the responsibility of leadership.

CHARACTER

The green candle and its light, combined with the light from the others, represent growth. Each of us here must grow in character. Character is really what we are. It combines our attitudes regarding scholarship, citizenship, service, and leadership into action. Our actions reflect who we are by what we do. This is character.

Each person here must work toward the many qualities embodied in character; honesty, cooperation, courtesy, fair play, and self sacrifice are but a few. It is the force of character that echoes strength.