Principle-Centered Leadership - 101 Course Syllabus

School Year: Fall 2026

Teacher: Dr. Frank Armato

"Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your own understanding." *Proverbs 3:5*

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Course

Principle-Centered Leadership I

Center of Excellence Mission Mandate

To educate future leaders with a virtuous, principle-centered mindset, character, purpose, and a commitment to excellence personally, academically, and spiritually. We believe we restore all things in and through Christ.

Course Description

This course converges the study and application of leadership principles with the action of building a healthy school culture and community. Leadership skills, theories, and concepts are learned through class curriculum, lectures, and school community service. This traditional approach to leadership learning is extended into the application of each lesson topic designed to positively impact the St. Pius X culture, as well as grow each student's personal faith journey. The main course goal is to teach students how to effectively embody leadership in action, not just in the title.

Learning Topics

There are 8 Units of Instruction covering the following topics:

- What is leadership, its guiding principles, and mentorship
- Understanding and setting smart goals
- Establishing an MVP: Mission, Vision & Purpose
- Identify your purpose and build a unique personal branding statement
- Identify and learn the 10 Pillars of Principle-Centered Leadership
- The teamwork factor & building relationships
- The Discipline of Consistency
- Selflessness & community service

Each learning topic will consist of reading, class collaboration, and discussion, as well as community service-based activities. There is an emphasis aligned to proactive initiatives with each lesson, focused on fostering a culture/climate of excellence at St. Pius X, within each student's local church, and the community. Content will include an entry-level introduction to leadership classes, as well as some advanced leadership-in-action learning.

Essential Standards & Skills Training

Students in this course will hone their skills in the following areas:

- Deep growth in their personal spiritual journey with Jesus.
- Learning and application of principle-centered leadership.
- Developing self-confidence and personal branding statements.
- Problem-solving, critical thinking, & situational awareness.
- Planning & time management skills.
- Relationship, mentorship, and trust-building.
- Public speaking, communication, & creative writing acumen.
- Learning and application of the Giver's Gain Principle.

Course Objectives

This curriculum is deliberately designed to develop and enhance foundational leadership skills among students. Class lectures and curriculum allow students to identify their strengths, areas of improvement, and gain an understanding of how to discover and implement their God-given potential. An understanding of self is vital for growing faith formation, leadership traits, and the student's ability to understand how they fit into teams, ability to collaborate and interact with various personalities. In addition to a study of self, students in this course will learn to effectively communicate, motivate, build relationships, and the importance of leaving a lasting impact.

Course Takeaways:

- Create personal mission and branding statements while learning accountability & purpose.
- Creative goal setting, action planning, & time management application.
- Understanding the different leadership styles and characteristics of a principled leader.
- Forge relationships with like-minded peers based on trust, principles, and code of conduct.
- Importance of being a good team member, leader, and school climate influencer.
- Craft reasoning, decision-making, & principle-centered consistency within a team setting.
- Servant leadership into action within the St. Pius X culture and community service.
- Improved communication, collaboration, writing, & speaking acumen.
- Situational awareness, questioning for understanding, and solution-based thinking.

Pillars of Consistency

The St. Pius X Leadership Center of Excellence offers a dynamic and comprehensive curriculum platform by blending spiritual development with principle-centered leadership learning. The curriculum, classroom experience, and community engagement are designed to be proactive and transformative.

CHARACTER • VIRTUES • ACCOUNTABILITY • HUMILITY • PASSION • FOCUS • MODELING • TRUST

Our goal is to ensure each of our students not only learn, but also apply, model, and live by the principles of Christian leadership. Our faculty team is committed to not only teach, but to also model the foundational pillars of sound leadership. Below is an overview of the 10 pillars and characteristics of our Principle-Centered Leadership traits taught through the book, "Disciplines of Consistency" along with supporting and correlating scripture.

Trust - Having an assured reliance on someone or something. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." -Proverbs 3:5-6

Character - A consistent display of high moral excellence. "Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." -Romans 5:3-4

Accountability - Hearing with thoughtful intent. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise person who built their house on the rock." -Mathew 7:24

Integrity - Taking personal ownership and responsibility even when no one is looking. "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but they who make their ways crooked will be found out." -Proverbs 10:9

Humility - A spirit free of all arrogance & self-pride. Always giving the Lord all the glory and honor. "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." -Philippians 2:3

Wisdom - A humble application of distilled experiences, knowledge, and insight. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." -James 1:5

Listening - Hearing with thoughtful intent. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise person who built their house on the rock." -Mathew 7:24

Persistence - Having an uncompromised commitment to achieve a successful outcome. "Let us not grow weary of doing good, soon we will reap, if we do not give up." -Galatians 6:9

Determination - Display of intentional, uncompromised focus. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." -Colossians 3:2

Authenticity - Having a humble, approachable, and transparent self, lacking self-righteousness. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9

Course Goals

St. Pius X Leadership Curriculum is designed with intentional and focused goals, as well as specific objectives designed to shape the next generation of leaders through a principle-centered lens. These goals are multifaceted not only to develop leadership skills, but to also foster deeper spiritual growth and character development.

Fostering Spiritual Growth and Personal Development

One of our primary objectives is to deepen the spiritual grounding of our students. Faith formation guides each facet of their leadership learning, ensuring each discipline is modeled within the framework of Christian-centered values. Beyond developing leadership skills, this course focuses on the personal and spiritual development of our students by building self-confidence, fostering resilience, and encouraging a principle-centered mindset. This class allows students to identify their strengths and weaknesses, as well as learn how to maximize their giftedness within a Family community.

Developing Leadership Skills

As we study how Jesus modeled leadership to his disciples, two things become clear. First, Jesus saw leadership in terms of serving, not in position or status. And second, leadership can only truly be expressed through a mindset that is both Christ-like and Christ-centered. Our classes are focused on building essential biblical leadership skills. These include effective communication, decision-making, team-building, problem-solving, and reasoning. These skills are taught through various interactive methods, including curriculum, workshops, group discussions, and practical exercises. Our goal is to equip young leaders with the necessary resources and tools they need to lead confidently and consistently.

Introduction to Servant Leadership

Servant leadership is a discipline that was modeled after Jesus and is essential for a principle-centered leader. This course emphasizes the importance of leading with care and proactive engagement, along with demonstrating a consistent, selfless approach. We teach students to prioritize the needs of others before their own.

Promoting Community and Teamwork

Leadership is often exercised in the context of a community or team. Our classes provide opportunities for participants to work in groups, learn from one another, and understand the dynamics of team leadership. Activities are designed to enhance teamwork skills, such as trust-building, effective communication, and collaborative problem-solving.

Preparing for Real-World Applications

The ultimate goal of this course is to prepare young leaders to identify and apply their skills as they enter their Senior year within Family leadership. This involves not only developing leadership capabilities but also understanding how to navigate the challenges and opportunities they will face in their communities, schools, churches, and future careers.

Grading outline

Coursework will be weighted as follows:

*Participation & Homework	40%
Weekly quiz	10%
Smart Goal	10%
Personal Branding Statement	10%
Unit Exams	15%
Semester Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

Classroom expectations

Participation Grade

Each student will **begin the semester with 100 points** in Facts representing their participation grade. It will be up to the student to maintain their grade during collaboration and interaction times in class. Failure to do so will result in points lost. Points can be earned back based on improved engagement during class.

Rules of Engagement

Students will show respect by being on time to class, being prepared for class, and by showing respect to others by raising their hands when answering or asking questions.

Tardiness/Disruption/Behavior Policy

Adhering to school policy, if a student comes in after the bell which begins class, you will need to receive a tardy slip from the office.

You may sit by friends, however, there cannot be talking during class, reviews, lectures, videos, and study time, unless said otherwise. At any time, you will be asked to move. Any type of disruption or behavior issues during class will result in a lowered participation grade and transfer to the office.

Phones/Purses and bags

Phones

This class adheres to school policy and does not allow phones to be used or brought to class unless approved. If phones are used or exposed during class, they will be handed in and then forwarded to the Assistant Principal's office.

Purses and bags

Purses and bags **ARE NOT ALLOWED on the table/desk** in front of where you're seated. Purses and bags must be placed on the chair or the floor beside you.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

The cadence and outcomes can change at the professor's discretion and class needs based on new curriculum.

I look forward to the opportunity to have you as a student who aspires to deepen their knowledge within Principle-centered leadership. Together, we will journey through the year learning critical thinking, as well as exploring future academic and career opportunities.

Dr. Armato

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I have read and understand the school/classroom policy on phones, purses, tardiness, behavior and participation. By signing below, I indicate that I have no questions. I understand each consequence and agree to comply with the policies and expectations set in place for this class.

Principle-Centered Leadership Class

Course Syllabus Signature Page

Please complete the portion below with a parent or guardian. Place it in your homework folder.

Both my parent/guardian, _____ and I, _____,
(parent/guardian name) (student name)
have read the Fall 2026 Principle- Centered Leadership syllabus in detail. By signing below, I indicate that I understand and agree with the policies and expectations set in place for this class.

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Printed Name **Date**

_____
Parent/Guardian Telephone Number(s) and email addresses

If needed, when is the best time to reach you by phone? _____

I look forward to embark on this very exciting and life-changing leadership journey together!
-Dr. Armato