Confucianism

Today we are learning about Confucianism, a philosophy that was based on respect and hierarchy. As we learn about this philosophy, we are going to behave in a Confucian manner.

You will be very respectful and answer questions in a specific manner.

If you do NOT do any of these things, you will be asked why your behavior did not align with Confucianism and have to answer in front of the class.

If you are unable to follow the laws of the class, you may be asked to do an additional assignment, reflecting on your behavior.
Confucianism Rules

• Stand, bow, and say the following in unison:
  • “We are honored to learn from such a wise and noble teacher.”

• Respond to questions from your teacher by standing and speaking in a clear voice.

• You must be attentive and respectful throughout the lesson.
Confucius

- Confucius (551-479 B.C.E.), humble man from poor beginnings, became so influential that his teachings inspired a philosophy, a religion, and a way of life that has lasted until today.

- Teachings became **popular during the Han dynasty**
Confucius

• From his basic "sayings" in *The Analects- Text*

  • Developed a philosophy, a social system and a political system which was based on harmony, tolerance, and merit.

• Filial piety (respect for father, elders, superiors) is basis of society

  • The relations between parent and child in the home that Confucius described is the model for all structures in society. Of all the five relationships, the one between parent and child was considered the most important.

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUhGRh4vdb8
Confucian Relationships

• The five most important relationships in Confucianism are:
  1. Parent and child
  2. Ruler and ruled
  3. Husband and wife
  4. Elder sibling to younger sibling
  5. Friend to friend

• One person has power/authority over the other and the responsibility to set a good example and take care of the other person. Person in lower position must remain respectful and loyal

• Confucian said that there were rituals about how to interact with others-based on relationship
Confucian Beliefs and Values

- **Ancestor worship** - Even after ancestors and family are gone, you are expected to be good and worship them.
- **Ceremony is important**
- **When a family member died, the family was expected to continue to honor them and visit their tombs or shrines**
- **Family and society are more important than the individual**
- **People are good**
- **Education is important** and the gateway to a structured society