Carrie Martin Elementary is a “Leader in Me” school. This leadership model assists us in integrating a culture of character and leadership into the already challenging school experience with our students, staff and community based on the principles of the late Dr. Stephen R. Covey’s “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” An eighth habit was recently added to the program for schools. The Leader in Me brings the “8 Habits” into the elementary school setting where students can begin to develop these very important skills at a very early age. This model embraces the beliefs and values of our school community. We believe that developing the “8 Habits” positively impacts ALL of our students, from those with significant special needs to those who are high achievers.

(For more information, see the Leader in Me Website: www.theleaderinme.org)

The 8 Habits of Highly Effective Happy Kids
These are the “8 Habits in kids’ language.

• **Habit 1**: Be Proactive
  I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

• **Habit 2**: Begin with the End in Mind
  I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of the classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

• **Habit 3**: Put First Things First
  I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow a plan. I am disciplined and organized.

• **Habit 4**: Think Win-Win

• **Habit 5**: Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood
  I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

• **Habit 6**: Synergize
  I value other people’s strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people’s ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.

• **Habit 7**: Sharpen the Saw
  I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with my family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

• **Habit 8**: Find Your Voice
I have found something that I'm good at and really like doing. I am proud but do not boast. Instead, I use my expertise to help and inspire others.