



## Alertness (vs. Carelessness)

**T**ime and wisdom do not diminish the need for alertness.

Alertness is something we begin to learn at an early age and continue to utilize throughout all seasons of life.

When we are children we learn not to touch the stovetop because it burns, and we learn to recognize that red can mean hot.

In school, we become alert to what others around us are doing, how that impacts us on a personal level, and how we should respond. It is during this season that we begin to learn to balance awareness with a responsibility to tell others, when necessary.

We become skilled at actively practicing alertness whenever we learn to drive a vehicle, which is perhaps the epitome of what alertness signifies.

As we drive, we have to be watchful at all times;



we have to know the road signs, rules, and signals; we have to constantly be aware of our surroundings; and we have to be ready to act and react as needed. As long as we drive a vehicle, we must practice this virtue of alertness, being clear-headed and responsive.

Another area and season in which we practice alertness is in the workforce. We use alertness to be punctual, to follow safety guidelines in order to prevent accidents, and to recognize the needs of customers, whether internal or external.

So, take time to notice, **be alert!**

### Keys to Alertness

#### Learn to:

- Be watchful
- Recognize signs or signals and associate the correct meanings
- Be aware and tell others
- Be ready for action – act immediately!
- Take time to analyze and learn from experiences

Be aware of what is happening around me, so I can respond correctly

## Visions of Character

“Character, not circumstances, make the man.”

— Booker T. Washington

*The mission of Prattville-Autauga Character Coalition is to strengthen our communities by promoting excellence in character for each citizen.*