

# Proper protocol

teaching tweens that manners rule

BY TARA DORSEY

## “mom talk”

The true test of Anne Chandler's work is what the moms think once the course is completed and the girls and boys are sitting back at their own dinner tables. Here's the takeaway from two Cobb mamas whose daughters attended the recent dinner party.

“Mrs. Chandler truly has the gift of teaching the importance of table etiquette, as well as everyday skills. Her sweet Southern charm made Taylor feel at ease and not at all intimidated when trying to master the five-course meal. She teaches new skills for even the most well-mannered children.”

— Kim Cooper, mom of Taylor, 11

“Mrs. Chandler is lovely. She instilled wonderful table manners and social lessons so that whether we're on a cruise ship, at a black-tie dinner, or at a casual restaurant, we can take our girls out and be proud of what they know and how they will behave.”

— Amy Fendley, mom of Piper, 9, and Pearson, 7

**T** recently attended a dinner party. The table was formally set—you know, various knives and forks, separate bread plate, multiple glasses—the whole shebang. The centerpiece was a lovely arrangement of mossy greenery, fresh flowers and intertwined grapevine; the conversation was informative and delightful. And the average age of the guests was around 10 years old. Yes, that's right, 10.

The dinner culminated a five-week course taught by Acworth resident Anne Chandler, founder of The Chandler School of Etiquette. The girls spent the previous weeks learning everything from how to make proper introductions to how to navigate a formal place setting to how to confidently deliver a short speech—and many more etiquette details in between.

### A Polite Passion

Anne has not always been an etiquette coach, but it's always been a passion. After her own sons were grown and her career transitioned from classroom teacher to fundraising executive to consultant, she found the time and resources to follow that passion. What fuels her passion? Through her work with teens, young adults, and executives over the past three decades, she realized that common courtesy is becoming a lost art.

“Attitudes have become ‘it's all about me.’ Civility is being pushed away from our culture—even things as simple as showing respect and being polite,” observes Anne. “I want to help people learn to take the focus off of ‘me’ when they're relating to others and to think about those around them.”

### Playing by the Rules

Because of this, her instruction isn't limited to teaching children the proper way to pass the salt and pepper (although they do learn that). Her menu of classes also includes courses for teens preparing for prom, college seniors prepping for interviews and business settings, and young professionals—and even higher-level executives—in need of a little protocol training.

“Just like with soccer or baseball, it's important to know the rules of life in order to really excel,” says Anne. “And as in athletics, you don't play for the rules, you play for the reward.” The reward for Anne? Watching her newest group of Chandler School grads confidently and politely dining around her. “Look at them! They're delightful,” she beams. And, indeed, they are. ●



View available classes at The Chandler School of Etiquette, located in Acworth, at [chandlerschoolofetiquette.com](http://chandlerschoolofetiquette.com). Or contact Anne directly at 706-346-7405 or [Anne@ChandlerSchoolofEtiquette.com](mailto:Anne@ChandlerSchoolofEtiquette.com).