

In the words of Taylor Swift... *'We don't need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful.'* What a great lesson for our kiddos who often push back when a classmate completes a task in a different way, or cheers on an opposing basketball team, or has an unusual sense of style. Creating a foundation here in Washington Township School District that all opinions are welcome, even when we might disagree is a powerful tool for our developing young people.

Greetings from your School Counselor! Periodically, you will receive a brief note focusing on character traits that our school community is learning about. October is the month of RESPECT for self, others and property. During this month, our students will learn what RESPECT looks like, sounds like and feels like in our school and in our community. Take some time to chat with your child and see what they think RESPECT looks, sounds and feels like in your home...

The State of New Jersey also recognizes the importance of RESPECT by naming the first full week in October as 'The Week Of Respect.' Look forward to some fun spirit days the week of October 5-9.

In a blink your kids will be back at Brass Castle and Port Colden warming the hallways with laughter, chatter and enthusiasm! Believe me, I LOVE summer and my barefoot beach days, but nothing hits like a new, fresh start to the school year.

September will be focused on the trait of RESPONSIBILITY. Reminders for our older students what it means to be gritty, complete assignments and follow directions independently. For our youngest, this is a time to set expectations for routines, mirror positive social interaction and simply 'what does being a productive student look like?'

One of the biggest components of RESPONSIBILITY is choice. Understanding that the choices we make are truly our greatest RESPONSIBILITY to ourselves. This foundation resonates on every level in elementary school, setting the stage for more impactful choices in the years to come.

New to Port Colden this fall is the program "A Little Spot" which focuses on character driven picture books and guides to support students in recognizing, naming and managing feelings and life skills. Stay tuned for more information from Principal McDonagh!



As always, I welcome the teamwork and collaboration to assure your child has the optimal social, emotional and academic school experience! Bring on the 2026-2027 School Year!

