

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Richard A. Bergacs
Principal

Mr. Gregory Cottrell
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Dear North Hunterdon Community,

In accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, the first week of October has been classified as the “Week of Respect.” The third week in October is designated as “School Violence Awareness Week.” These weeks are designed to ensure that all students in our school will be receiving age-appropriate instruction on respecting themselves and others. The theme of respect is instrumental in reducing incidences of bullying and helping students to feel comfortable in our school. North Hunterdon High School will be observing both weeks in all departments with the following activities:

- Green Dot trainings will take place with a group of freshmen. They will create posters to hang in the building with concepts related to bystander intervention.
- Students in Tech Ed and Science classes will be completing reflective assignments from the Minute Recipes for Peacebuilding Program.
- In French and Spanish classes, students will be learning about “what it means to be heroic” and respecting uniqueness in society. Discussions will revolve around respecting nationalities and cultures across the world. French IV students will be discussing the importance of respecting the older generations.
- In German and Latin classes, students will be engaging in extensive discussions on respecting culture, differences, language, tolerance, etc. Different mediums will be used to spark discussions including videos, songs, literature, current events, and historical writings including writings about the Holocaust.
- In the English Department, teachers of English I, II, and III will lead discussions and provide supporting assignments based on the books they are currently reading including: *War*, by Jack London, the Gettysburg Address, *Things Fall Apart*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *The Great Gatsby*. English IV students will view a video from Joe Torre’s charity foundation to help students become sympathetic to domestic violence and the emotional damage done to the children of parents who are feuding.
- In the Art Department, Painting I students will be instructed to explore their culture and respect other’s differences. They will be asked to collect various photographs that demonstrate a distinct difference from themselves. One of these photos will be transferred into a painting. The Drawing 3 class will look at the work of contemporary artist Kara Walker, an artist whose work explores race, gender, sexuality, violence and identity.
- The Math Department will be painting week of respect slogans and other sayings on the windows in the breezeway. In some of the classes, statistics regarding respect will be gathered and analyzed. The AP Statistics classes will create a survey regarding bullying, cyberbullying, etc. and analyze their findings.
- The Social Studies Department will focus on the way different groups of people have been treated throughout history. For example, in the Honors Modern American History classes, students will discuss how hyphenated Americans (e.g. German-Americans, Immigrants migrating from nations we were at war with) and other non-conformists were targeted during WWI. The Advanced Modern American History classes will compare the treatment of immigrants in the 1920’s to today. Other class activities in all other history classes will highlight how respect, stereotyping and HIB have impacted the world.

- Students in AP Psychology classes will view and discuss the film *A Special Brain*, which interviews people with Williams syndrome. As well as discussing how genetics and brain function effect perception, the film shows how people are shunned because of their differences.
- The Friends of Rachel club will be completing a Random Acts of Kindness bulletin board in which the entire school community will be able to participate.
- Preschool Education classes will use the poem entitled *I am Special* to develop a lesson plan for preschool students including: story time, science, an educational game, art and music. While creating the lesson plan, high school students will learn that it is important to teach respect and sensitivity towards others at the preschool level.
- In foods classes students will discuss the importance of respect and sensitivity toward others during group activities and create posters which illustrate the various ways they demonstrate tolerance of the differences and opinions of their peers while working in the foods lab.
- Health classes will learn about emotional health. They will be presented with a lesson that involves dealing with emotions and how to solve conflicts respectfully between friends. They will act out scenarios, as well as draw conclusions about what a scenario would look like treating someone with respect while trying to solve a conflict. They will discuss solving problems with respect while being assertive rather than aggressive.
- Physical Education students will cooperatively participate in group warm-up and activity sessions. During game play, students work together to execute the skills and demonstrate respect to one another by following directions, working with all their teammates, providing positive feedback, responding with positive statements, and emphasizing respect amongst teammates and opponents.
- Special Education classes are planning a variety of activities within each discipline focusing on individual differences between all people. They will be sparking discussions, writing assignments, and drawing projects in classes through the use of short videos, reading selections, various websites, and other relevant resources.

During the “Week of Respect” and “School Violence Awareness Week,” North Hunterdon High School will be placing a major focus on respect as well as violence awareness and prevention. Our librarian, Martha Hickson, has created a library book display on the theme of respect where students will find books and other media relating to the topics. It is my sincere hope that these activities and discussions will be able to build and maintain a safe atmosphere of respect in our school and community.

If you have any questions regarding our planned activities, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Richard Bergacs, Ed.D.
Principal