



Cherry Hill Public Schools

Malberg Administration Building
45 Ranoldo Terrace, P.O. Box 5015
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
(856) 429-5600
Fax (856) 354-1864

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin another school year, we wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your help in making Cherry Hill a wonderful place to live, work, learn and play. Because of your involvement and support, Cherry Hill has become the thriving, diverse and inviting school district we all enjoy today.

For many years, our schools have been actively teaching our students the importance of good character, specifically centered on the three pillars of Respect, Responsibility and American Citizenship. The children in our schools have been learning the importance of both civic and ethical values, as well as performance skills as they pertain not only to their education, but also as tools for success for the rest of their lives. In fact, the efforts of teachers, administrators and parents have resulted in a number of our schools receiving the honorable distinction of "School of Character" at both the state and national levels.

As many of you know, children are extremely adaptable and resilient, able to grasp new ideas very easily. As individuals who have accepted the responsibility of raising and working with children, it is vital that we set examples of good character. Behavior modeling for our children every day is one of the most effective ways to teach and lead by example. Each and every one of us – parents, teachers, and administrators – is a character educator.

The Zone PTA's Character Education Committee meets monthly to discuss ways to help support character education in our schools and communities. **For more information, please visit their eBoard at <http://ZonePTACharEd.cherryhill.site.eboard.com>.** If you are interested in being more directly involved, please contact your PTA president.

For the sake of our children, we invite you to continue our quest for good character. Please help us to create a caring community whose members may disagree at different times, but always strive to respect the rights of others to their own points of view. Please join us in establishing a culture where our children learn to respect themselves and each other, and create innovative solutions to the problems in their lives and the world around them. Help us foster a climate in which each child's personal development and empowerment are strengthened.

Thank you for your efforts, and welcome to our team!

Sincerely,

Dr. Maureen Reusche
Superintendent

Kathy Judge
President, Board of Education

Martin Sharofsky
President, CH Education Association

Megan Zeigler
Chairperson, Cherry Hill Zone PTA

Please read the next two pages and support the Cherry Hill School District's expectations for your child.

Cherry Hill's Character Education Standards

RESPONSIBILITY:

The student demonstrates an understanding of responsible behavior, and conducts him/herself in a responsible manner.

- Understands why personal responsibility is important, and understands the benefits of fulfilling responsibilities
- Does what one says he/she will do
- Holds one's self accountable for actions or failure to act
- Refrains from blaming others for one's mistakes
- Understands that one's actions have consequences both for oneself and others, and thus conducts oneself in a way that considers those consequences
- Demonstrates self-control and self-discipline
- Uses good judgment
- Recognizes and defers to others in authority when appropriate
- Attends class every day unless legitimately excused
- Arrives on time for class each day
- Completes assignments in a timely manner
- Handles and treats with care all school property, including text and library books, computers and other equipment
- Does not write on school walls, desks or other structures
- Does not take, without permission, items which do not belong to him/her
- Is honest and truthful
- Does one's own work and refrains from all types of cheating, within the realm of academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Cleans up after one's self

RESPECT:

The student demonstrates an understanding of respectful behavior, and conducts him/herself in a respectful manner.

- Understands why respecting one's self and others is important and necessary
- Is sensitive to the needs, interests and desires of others
- Speaks in a courteous, polite and respectful manner and tone to others
- Responds appropriately when addressed by others
- Demonstrates an appreciation of the rights of others by refraining from using foul, obscene, vulgar or otherwise inappropriate language
- Demonstrates an appreciation of the rights of others by refraining from using verbal and body language to ridicule, belittle, mock, hassle or deride others
- Refrains from interrupting others' conversations
- Exhibits appropriate behavior in public settings by refraining from carrying on separate conversations and otherwise distracting or disturbing others during class lectures, assembly periods and artistic or other performances
- Abides by school/classroom rules
- Conducts one's self in a respectful manner during transitional time between periods
- Resolves conflicts in a peaceful manner, without resorting to violence or disrespectful speech
- Interacts positively with others, thus refraining from the utilization of threatening words or body posture
- Demonstrates an appreciation that one can learn from others by never intentionally excluding or making others feel unwelcome, disliked or inferior
- Intervenes by appropriate and respectful means when someone is mistreated

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP:

The student demonstrates the importance and consequences of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs and principles of a constitutional democracy.

- Understands that as citizens of the United States, we all have certain personal rights and privileges, which are contained in key historical documents such as the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
- Understands that as American citizens, we are compelled to respect, accept and honor the rights of others that are secured by our constitutional government
- Understands that the rights as set forth in the historical documents that secure our personal rights also reflect our shared values, principles and beliefs, and that it is these shared rights, values, principles and beliefs that unite us, rather than ethnicity, race, religion, class, language, gender or national origin
- Demonstrates how respect for these shared rights, values, principles and beliefs contribute to the continuation and improvement of American democracy
- Demonstrates personal and public character traits that contribute to the health of the American democracy such as civility, respect for the rights of other individuals, respect for the law, negotiation and compromise, personal responsibility, civic mindedness, and patriotism
- Demonstrates an understanding of the importance for society that one accept responsibility for one's actions, adhere to moral principles, consider the rights and interests of others, and behave in a civil manner