



LEARNING • ACHIEVEMENT • GROWTH • DIRECTION



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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What an exciting first week! It was a delight to meet our students and begin to observe some rich learning in our classrooms. All week I was met with so many smiling faces offering such kind introductions. It was no surprise that there is already a strong foundation of a healthy school culture. As we begin to move forward, I wanted to remind you of the District's commitment to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence that was mentioned in the summer mailing. This work allows us to further nurture a positive school climate by utilizing the Anchors of Emotional Intelligence—a framework to promote emotionally intelligent students and staff. Indeed, the abundance of research on social-emotional learning demonstrate that schools committed to developing a student and staff culture invested in emotional intelligence enjoy a healthy school climate with greater student achievement. Some of the initial work in growing such culture begins with establishing appropriate routines to maximize time and promote community. Prior to the start of the school year, our lunch and recess staff enjoyed some targeted professional development from the organization Playworks. Playworks actively works with schools to “create a place for every kid on the playground to feel included, be active, and build valuable social and emotional skills.” Additionally, a universal sign has been established in the building to indicate when there is a need for students to be quite so that clear directions can be given.

In addition to our work with the Anchors of Emotional Intelligence, our new teaming model will help to support the needs of our students and communicate to parents. This new structure will further help to support an emotionally intelligent school. Parents should begin to expect a regular communication from their child's teacher sharing exciting learning in their respective classrooms. It is all quite exciting!

Again, thank you for great first week and enjoy this beautiful weekend!

Brent B. Harrington
Principal
Pocantico Hills Central School District