

Northport Middle School is located on the north shore of Long Island. The enrollment of our grades 6, 7 and 8 is currently 872 students. With one principal, one assistant principal, and 130 staff members, it is our mission to provide students with an inter-disciplinary and hands-on approach to learning. We encourage and promote curiosity, creativity and a love of learning. Academic and personal growth are considered equally important.

With the increasing use of the internet, text messaging, and growing media attraction, middle school students often lose focus of respect for oneself, respect for others and the respect for their community. At Northport Middle School, students and staff are held to a high level of expectation when it comes to respect. Anti-bullying and anti-bullying behavior messages are spread throughout the building during the school year. Outside agencies visit the building to perform assemblies focusing on character education and tolerance. Staff members communicate within their teams to discuss student behavior and students' abilities to handle conflict and conflict resolution. Staff members trained in peer mediation work with various students throughout the year in an effort to create more positive and effective peer relations. These efforts are not enough.

Staff members at Northport Middle school believe that the building morale and lack of respect among students and staff needs to be addressed. Students do not see adults as authority figures. They are insubordinate and find nothing wrong with not complying with school rules and district policies. Parents will often side with their child in a disciplinary situation and find fault in the staff member or other student involved. Students use hurtful language in their everyday conversations. They leave trash in the hallways, classrooms and cafeterias. They believe someone else will clean up after them. Staff members don't address the putdowns and "trash

talk” that they overhear in the hallways, cafeterias, and classrooms. Students and staff need to feel safe and respected in order to learn.