

Press from:

The New Providence School District
356 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974
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Subject: **NEW PROVIDENCE LAUNCHES 2018-2019 CHARACTER EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

The New Providence School District, a 2017 National District of Character, has launched their 2018-2019 Character Education Initiative "**NP...IT STARTS WITH US!**"

The district-wide Character Education Kick-Off on Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018, was designed to coordinate with the National Week of Respect. The New Providence School District created a film where students, staff and teachers were featured sharing "What do you love about NP?" or "What good deeds have you done?" or "Are you involved in any community projects?".

During the Kick-Off festivities at each school, the students were able to view the film, and participate in fun, team building events such as a Lip Sync Battle (at NPMS) and a Glow in the Dark Dance Party with teachers and students (at Allen W. Roberts Elementary School).

Lauren Zirpoli, Principal at New Providence High School, states "NPHS kicked off the 2018-2019 Week of Respect by having students and staff wear blue to raise awareness about bullying. The 2018-2019 Character Education theme of "NP It Starts With Us," has been embraced by students and staff and aligns with the Character Education mission and goals of making a difference each and every day. A video featuring students and staff from all schools in the district was featured as part of morning announcements to unveil the theme and focus for the school year.

NPHS students and staff will be organizing and participating in a number of events centered around our theme including Spread the Word to End the Word, working with Bridges, Operation Christmas Child, helping at the Community Food Bank, and working with our elementary students on field days and Read Across America."

Character Education lessons are incorporated into the curriculum in all schools in the district, and unite the students in a common theme focusing on messages of kindness, respect, and empathy for others. Jean Drexinger, Principal at Salt Brook Elementary School states "As is tradition at Salt Brook, the "**NP.....IT STARTS WITH US!**" theme will be carried over into the hallways, cafeteria, and playgrounds during the current school year. Throughout the course of the school year, the students will be involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and empower them to make good choices for themselves. They will learn that it is their actions that will help to make each day better than the next. Many of these activities will be

school-based programs as well as multi-level interconnecting activities involving High School and Middle School students visiting the elementary schools and our students visiting them.”

For more information on how the New Providence School District strives to promote and excel in Character Education, please visit the website at <https://www.npsd.k12.nj.us/Domain/692>.

