

Rockville Centre Union Free School District



South Side Middle School

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September 6 , 2023

Yesterday, we held a full school assembly to introduce our students to all members of our faculty and staff. Our opening day assembly allows us to start the year by creating a sense of belonging and school spirit. It was our first opportunity in the 2023-2024 school year to build a positive and supportive school culture that fosters a conducive learning environment for all students. A short discussion on basic school rules ensued but the emphasis was on the most important rule, which is the *Golden Rule - treat others as you wish to be treated*. The Golden Rule is a fundamental and universal principle of ethics and interpersonal relationships. It promotes empathy, kindness, and respect for others, which are essential values to instill in students at South Side Middle School. By emphasizing the Golden Rule as the most important rule in the school, we are encouraging our students to:

Practice Empathy: Encourage students to put themselves in others' shoes and consider how their actions might impact their peers. This can lead to greater understanding and compassion.

Show Respect: Treating others as they would like to be treated includes showing respect for differences in opinions, backgrounds, and cultures. It promotes inclusivity and diversity.

Resolve Conflicts Peacefully: When conflicts arise, teaching students to apply the Golden Rule can help them find peaceful and constructive ways to resolve disagreements and avoid harm to others.

Promote Positive Relationships: By fostering a culture of mutual respect and kindness, we can help students build positive relationships with their peers, teachers, and staff.

Prevent Bullying and Harassment: Emphasizing the Golden Rule can contribute to a safer and more inclusive school environment by discouraging bullying and harassment.

Build a Strong Community: When everyone in the school community, from students to staff, follows the Golden Rule, it creates a sense of belonging and unity, making the school a more pleasant place to learn and work.

By making the Golden Rule a central tenet of the philosophy of SSMS, we are laying the foundation for a positive school culture that promotes kindness and consideration for others. It's a principle that will guide our students throughout their lives, both inside and outside of the classroom.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year. Please access the SSMS website to keep up to date on our daily announcements and upcoming events. We look forward to working with you to make your child's SSMS experience as positive and productive as possible.

Sincerely,

Shelagh McGinn

Maria LaSorsa

Jonathan Wiesenber