



**Montville Township Public Schools
September 2015**

Accolades for Montville Township Schools

Recognition awarded for district programs and accomplishments



Montville Township High School is among the top 250 high schools in the nation according to **Newsweek Magazine**.

District Administration magazine named Montville Township Public Schools as a **District of Distinction** in the July 2015 issue. The Montville district has been chosen for this national honor due to its innovative Humanities Research Program.

The **Montville Speech and Debate Team** placed in the top 20 schools in the nation in the summer competition. Six Montville Township High School team members qualified for National Speech and Debate Association Nationals. Two MTHS students placed in the top 5 in the nation !

Cheryl Zanone, 7th grade science teacher at Lazar Middle School, has been named the **Morris County Teacher of the Year** by the New Jersey Department of Education.

YEA Climate and Culture Survey

District to Partner with United Way



During the 2015-2016 school year, the Montville Township Public Schools will be engaging in the School Culture and Climate Initiative, a partnership of United Way *Youth Empowerment Alliance*, the College of St. Elizabeth and the Atlantic Healthcare System. The aim of the initiative is to work with individual schools to gather data from students and staff members about their perceptions of the school climate and culture. Facilitators from The Youth Empowerment Alliance work closely with school teams to

ensure schools have the means to improve their culture and climate holistically. They provide the expertise and resources to make this change meaningful, impactful, and sustainable.

The School Culture and Climate Initiative is a three-year process tailored to the needs of the school. A variety of exercises and school-wide assessments are used to review survey data, then develop and implement improvement plans. The result is a school community where children can thrive emotionally, socially, physically, and academically. Students are involved in the process every step of the way! Many of the changes made at a school are recommended by the students themselves.

Research shows that schools with a positive culture and climate - and a focus on social and emotional learning - have happier students, with higher academic achievement and fewer disciplinary issues.

The impact reaches far beyond school years. By developing social and emotional skills now, youth will also have many of the skills needed to be employable, successful adults.

The School Culture and Climate Initiative was nationally recognized as a 2014 Promising Practice by the Character Education Partnership.

Child Assault Prevention Training

Workshops to be provided for teachers, parents and students



The Montville Township elementary schools will participate in the New Jersey Child Assault Prevention (NJ CAP) program this year. NJCAP is a statewide community based prevention program. With a motto "All Children Deserve to be Safe, Strong and Free," the CAP program seeks to reduce children's vulnerability to abuse, neglect and bullying by providing comprehensive prevention workshops for children, parent and school staff. The project is sponsored by the NJ Department of Children and Families and supported by school districts across the State. NJ CAP is one of 35 CAP Regional Training Centers of the International Center for Assault Prevention.

The elementary level workshop is a one hour session that is run by three NJCAP facilitators. Through the use of role playing exercises and guided group discussion, students are trained to recognize potentially dangerous situations, and to make effective use of the options available to them when dealing with such a situation. CAP emphasizes self-assertion, peer support and communication with a trusted adult as prevention strategies. A teacher training will be provided as well as a parent workshop. *The parent session* is a 1 ½ - 2 hour program which includes similar information for adults in the community. This session will be scheduled prior to the student workshops. The training emphasizes communication skills for discussing assault with children and effective responses for handling a child in crisis. Parents are given a detailed description of the classroom workshops.

Contact

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"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

-Benjamin Franklin

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