

Michael Josephson recently wrote a commentary about “toxic incivility inspired by the Congressman who shouted “You lie!” to President Obama during his State of the Union speech. In his article he “appealed to readers and listeners to set aside personal and political perspectives and to see how damaging it is when simple precepts like civility are ignored.” He went on to say that “reasonable and

respectful discourse becomes impossible when shouted down by sincere, but self-righteous, verbal assaults.”

Surprisingly, he received many letters from folks who missed the point of Mr. Josephson’s commentary and chose to make partisan justifications for or against the issue.

His point, easily transferable to our local school and community setting here in the Allegheny Highlands is that every one of us, whether we’re a teacher, student, parent, or ‘Joe-citizen’, “has a moral obligation to treat opposing views—and the people who utter them—with respect, to have genuine humility, and to be willing to compromise.”

It’s okay, even healthy for that matter, to have spirited discussion about issues or values, but it’s not okay to be insulting and disrespectful to others in the process. We can, and should, be better than that!

We want character to count in our community.

Can we count on you?

# R-E-S-P-E-C-T

(Find out what it means to me)

2nd Six Week Period, 2009-10 School Year

A CHARACTER COUNTS!™ resource for Allegheny County and Covington City Public Schools

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5 “The highest result of education is tolerance.” - Helen Keller	6 “A free society is a place where it’s safe to be unpopular.” - Adlai Stevenson	7 Be tolerant and accepting of differences.	8 “When looking for faults—use a mirror, not a telescope.” - Santiz	9 Each of us has the basic right to be treated with dignity.
12 A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can’t go anywhere until you change it!	13 “You have two choices...react or resolve.” - Zack, age 12	14 Never treat others as simply the means for your own gain.	15 “What is wrong today won’t be right tomorrow.” - Dutch Proverb	16 Using <u>sir</u> and <u>ma’am</u> , <u>please</u> and <u>thank you</u> gain LOTS of points with adults!
19 “The most important thing in life is to try to do the very best for your neighbors. Respect other people.” - Hank Aaron	20 Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.	21 Don’t look where you fall, but where you slipped.	22 Erasers are for people who are willing to correct their mistakes. Source: Wise Quotes	23 He who knows others is wise. He who knows himself is enlightened. Source: Wise Quotes
26 Anger is a short madness. Don’t allow it to ruin long standing relations. Source: Wise	27 “Being brilliant is no great feat if you respect nothing.” - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	28 “Anger is only one letter short of danger.” Source: Quotable Quotes	29 “Success is always temporary. When all is said and done, the only thing you’ll have left is your character.” - Vince Gill	30 Never deprive someone of hope. It might be all he has.
November 2 “Write injuries in sand, kindness in marble.” - French Proverb	3 If you don’t take pride in who you are, you can never take pride in what you do.	4 “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” - William Ward	5 “There can be no happiness for people at the expense of other people.” - Anwar el-Sadat	6 “Following the path of least resistance makes rivers and men crooked.” - Unknown
9 “To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by only one bee.” - Unknown	10 “Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.” - Spanish Proverb	11 “To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	12 “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” - Haida Indian saying	13 For respect to be earned, it must also be freely given.

**CHARACTER COUNTS!**<sup>SM</sup>

October 18—24  
is  
National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week!



October 4-10  
is  
National 4-H Week!

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