

OXHEAD ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

144 Oxhead Road
Centereach, NY 11720
(631) 285-8700
Corinne Seeh, Principal

Middle Country Central School District
8-43rd Street
Centereach NY 11720

Dr. Roberta A. Gerold, Superintendent
Francine McMahon, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction
Herbert B. Chessler, Assistant Superintendent for Business
James G. Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dear Oxhead Families,

Our school and its staff continually strive to reinforce positive behaviors, respect and good communication skills.

As adults, we must all be positive role models for the future generation. A new issue facing our school is the parent use of social networking sites specifically, Facebook. A few members of our community have utilized this technology as a means to express their concerns. On occasion, such generalized statements are directed towards individuals or groups as well as Oxhead staff or our school. These postings are often taken out of context and are sometimes viewed as mean or slanderous. With that being said, we encourage anyone with a question or concern to contact your child's teacher or myself so that the concern may be fully addressed.

Once something is posted, it cannot be taken back. With Facebook's rapid evolution, there is a generally agreed upon courtesy or etiquette for online communication. Here are just a few hints:

- Message private matters instead of posting on a wall.
- Be mindful of what you post. Think of the possible misinterpretations before you post anything.
- If you have a concern about your child, another child, or a staff member, don't declare it on the public domain.
- As with all other online communication, Facebook is mostly textual. It's easy for someone to think you are being sarcastic when you are not, or misunderstand you in any other manner for that matter.
- Do not use public space as a place to vent your frustrations.
- Recognize that it is often never the entire truth that is posted on Facebook, and your best bet is always to speak in person, to the source.

At the end of the day, it's entirely up to us to follow some simple etiquette rules. We should never turn to social media as a forum for hurtful speech and comments. Posting in the heat of the moment may feel cathartic, but the momentary pleasure you get from it, isn't worth the potential harm it could create. Take a moment to breathe, think, and reboot.

Corinne Seeh
Principal