

CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM

#civilitycounts

A year-long, in-school program that teaches students how to leverage their strengths, and how to interact with their peers and community in a positive way.

The problem: Students are already wary of new people. They want to know what neighborhood someone is from, or worse, don't want to know anything. This creates communities and people who are isolated in thought and action.

The solution: Creating a generation of adults that can see past differences and actively want to learn from each other.

What is civility? *Disagreeing without disrespect, seeking common ground as a starting point for dialogue about differences, listening past one's preconceptions, and teaching others to do the same. Civility is the hard work of staying present even with those with whom we have deep-rooted and fierce disagreements. It is a necessary prerequisite for civic action. It is also about negotiating interpersonal power such that everyone's voice is heard, and nobody's is ignored.*

Students will walk away from the Community Civility Counts Leadership Program with an understanding of:

- **Civility:** Students will design and internalize a definition of civility that includes their core values and those of this course.
- **News Literacy:** Students learn news literacy through the lens of civility.
- **Civility with Self:** Students will treat themselves with respect by understanding their strengths while also being able to identify and regulate your emotions and aligned actions
- **Civility with Others:** Students will use words and communicate effectively in adversarial situations instead of using physical aggression, verbal abuse or other negative strategies
- **Civility as a Leader:** Students will be active leaders and ambassadors of the program by exuding the values while modeling and promoting the strategies, both in and outside of school

Civility in the Classroom consists of four, 30 minute lessons per week for 30 weeks that can be held in any 7th - 12th grade class. For more information, email Summer Moore at summer.moore@nwi.com.