

DeWitt Middle School Newsletter



November 2019

Issue #2

Message from the Principal

Dear Families of DeWitt Middle School,

We have had an amazing start to the 2019-20 school year. The students and staff have settled into the innovative teaching and learning process while establishing engaging relationships for the year. We have worked very hard on establishing routines that will promote a positive and nurturing learning environment for all students.

On behalf of the staff at DeWitt, we want to thank you for participating in our Open House (Bring your Family to School Night). We used the “schedule format” this year and the “open format” last year to see which format was most beneficial to staff and families. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated on which format was most helpful for you. *Schedule* is when family follows their child's schedule and *Open* is when you choose to go to your child's classroom throughout the night

As you may know, we had quite a few new staff members this year due to retirement and district alignment. The new staff members are making valuable contributions to our student success as we continue to welcome them. In addition, we will continue to embrace the three ICSD levers: teaching and learning innovations, inclusion, and culturally responsive practices as we readily implement aspects of each across the curriculum and culture.

The RULER team has been working diligently in phase one of implementation; with the staff learning and understanding social-emotional skills as they create their charter. RULER is a social emotional approach and practice to building relationships and connecting with students and staff on a level of understanding each other's emotions. The students and families will be in phase two of the implementation that's being planned for next year.

The Fall sports season has come to an end and you should have received information about dates for registration for the Winter sports season. If not, contact the Athletic Office for details.

Lastly, we welcome and value your feedback to improve our learning community and continue our success in meeting the academic and social emotional needs of all students. We invite you to volunteer and be an active participant in the scheduled events at DeWitt.

Be in peace,

Mac Knight



ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 Academic Calendar



September 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					

February 2020						
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October 2019						
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27	28	29	30	31		

March 2020						
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29	30	31				

November 2019						
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April 2020						
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30	31					

December 2019						
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29	30	31				

May 2020						
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30	31					

January 2020						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2020						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Key	
	Vacation Day/Recess
	Regents Exams (no school for IHS except for students taking exams)
	District PLC Conference Day (no school for students)
	Early Release - Mandatory Emergency Drill
	Elementary Parent/Teacher Conference Day (no school for elementary students)

Marking Period Dates

Updated: April 9, 2019

Approved by Board of Education:

April 9, 2019

Sept.	2	Labor Day/No School
	3	First Day for Staff/District PLC
		Conference Day (no school for students)
	4	Pre-K-6 & 9th grade & All New Entrants
	5	Full Day K-12
	30	Rosh Hashanah†
Oct.	1	Early Release - Mandatory Emerg. Drill
		1 Rosh Hashanah†
	9	Yom Kippur†
	13-20	Sukkot†
	14	Indigenous People's Day Recess
	25	District PLC Conference Day
Nov.	8	Elem. Parent Teacher Conference Day
	11	Veteran's Day Recess
	27-29	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec.	23-21	Winter Recess
	23-30	Hanukkah†
	25	Christmas†
Jan.	1-3	Winter Recess
	20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess
	21-24	Regents Exams
Feb.	17-21	President's Day/Mid-Winter Recess
Mar.	10	Purim†
	19	Elem. Parent Teacher Conference Day
	20	District PLC Conference Day
Apr.	6-10	Spring Recess
	8-16	Passover†
	10	Good Friday†
	12	Easter†
	23	Ramadan Begins†
May	22	School Recess*
	23	Ramadan Ends†
	24	Eid Al-Fitr†
	25	Memorial Day Recess
June	2	History & Government Regents Exams
	8-10	Shavuot†
	17-25	Regents Exams
	25	Last day of school for students
	26	Last day of school for Staff (no school for students)

*Pending Emergency School Closure Day(s) school may be in session

† Additional dates of importance are included for reference, but may not indicate a school recess



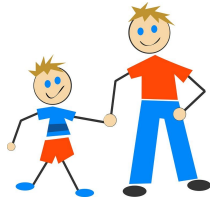
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are set up differently in middle school from elementary school. There are no designated conference days. If you would like to meet with your child's teachers, please contact the Guidance Office (257-3445) to make an appointment. Grade level teams have one period per day set aside to meet together as a team, and it is during that time that teams can meet with parents. These are core teacher team times. If you wish to meet with super-core teachers such as music, art, technology etc., please let Guidance know and they can try to make that happen at a time convenient to all.

Upcoming Events on the DeWitt Calendar

- **11/12 6:30PTA Meeting: Topic, Social Emotional learning & Inclusion, District Admin. DeWitt Admin, School Board Rep., CSE Chair Q&A in the cafeteria**
- 11/21 International /Immigration Night THIS HAS BEEN POSTPONED
- **11/25 Math Talk: Dan McGrath- Mon. 6:30**
- 12/4 – 7th/8th Grade Bands – 7pm Kulp
- 12/12, 13, 14, 15 – DeWitt Musical 7pm at DeWitt
- 12/14/19, 12/15/19 – DeWitt Musical 2pm at DeWitt
- 1/8/20 - 7th/8th Grade Choir- 7pm at Kulp Auditorium
- 1/9/20 - 7th/8th Grade Orchestra & Chamber Orchestra- 7pm at Kulp Auditorium
- 1/22/20 Community Ping Pong!
- 1/15/20 - 6th grade, Choir, Orchestra & Band 7pm at Kulp Auditorium
- **1/21/20--Mid-year State of DeWitt Q & A**
- 2/8/20 Community Ping Pong!
- **2/10 6:30 pm PTA Meeting. Topic: Restorative Practices District Admin. DeWitt Admin, School Board Rep. CSE Chair Q&A in cafeteria**
- 2/12/20 & 2/13/20 DeWitt Variety Show - 7pm at DeWitt

Advice for Parents



Parents are strongly advised to check in regularly on their child's progress. Here are some suggestions to make this easy to do.

1. Every student has a white assignment book. They should be filling out this assignment book on a daily basis. Ask your child to show you their assignment book each evening. If a class has no homework, the student is asked to write NONE instead of leaving it blank.
2. Check on Google Classroom. Ask your student to sign into their Google Classroom account. There is a page with an assignment due calendar, as well as separate classroom pages for each course. Often, assignments are listed, as well as due dates, and materials that can be reviewed or downloaded.
3. Check School tool weekly. Most teachers keep their gradebooks updated on School tool so that you can see missing assignments. If you don't have a School tool account, contact Kathy Troy in Guidance.
4. Feel free to contact (email or phone) any teacher you feel you need to speak with concerning your child's progress.

Snow What?



In the event of inclement weather, please listen to your local television or radio station for school cancellations and delays. One such site is:

<https://www.14850.com/closings/>

Also, this information is listed on the ICSD website.

When does DeWitt Open its Doors?

It is important that there is proper adult supervision whenever there are children in or around DeWitt Middle School. School starts at 9:00 a.m. Buses arrive usually around 8:45 a.m. Students who eat breakfast at school can get their breakfast at that time. DeWitt opens its doors for students at 8:00 a.m. Please do not drop your child off before that time. The school doors are locked after bus drop off times and you or your child must press the front door button to alert the main office.



Please do not drop off or pick up children in the front bus loop. All traffic should enter at the north parking lot, and follow the directional arrows around the parking lot. There are spaces to pull over to wait for your child.

Important Phone Numbers

Principal: Mac Knight	257-3222
Associate Principal: Donna Lucy-Lender	257-3881
Attendance: Patty Potter	257-3222 ext 30007
Guidance: Kathy Troy	257-3445
Family Liaison: Penny Boynton	266-3554
Nurse	266-3510
Cafeteria: Nancy Smith	257-3884
Main Office: Deb Reniff	257-3222
Social Worker: Mary Baker	257-3269
Psychologist: Carin Trabout	257-3406
Special Ed Office:	257-3444
Custodial Office: Carleen Cory	257-3885

School Supply Cupboard



Penny Boynton collects school supplies for students in need of these materials. They are available for any student who needs them free of charge. If you have any supplies such as paper, pencils, backpacks, folders, colored pencils etc., that you could donate to this useful resource, please drop them off at the school or send in with your child. Thank you for helping every student feel prepared and feel they belong.

Carrot Pie



C.A.R.R.O.T. P.I. is the acronym that Guidance would like to use to highlight the character traits we practice and demonstrate here at DeWitt, and hopefully in our everyday lives. It stands for Compassion, Adaptability, Respect, Responsibility, Optimism, Tolerance, Perseverance, Initiative.

Each month the Guidance Department plans on selecting a character trait to focus on. With the help of recommendations from teachers and staff, each month we will recognize students throughout each grade level who have demonstrated these character traits.

It is our intent that CARROT PI will expound on HOME ideals through visual aids (bulletin boards, digital display at Front of School etc), curriculum (via certain lesson plans within HOMEbase and/or class), and recognition of students on their positive behaviors.

For the first month (October), we focused on the character trait of **Respect**.

DeWitt Cafeteria Expectations



These are the expectations for eating lunch in the cafeteria.

- Find a seat
- Say hello to your friends (in a normal voice).
- Wait patiently until an adult instructs your section to walk to the cafeteria dining line. If you brought your lunch, please be respectful and wait for your friends who need to buy lunch.
- Be kind to the cafeteria staff, greet them with hello, please and thank you.
- Take a seat, eat your food, chat with your friends...
- If you drop food, pick it up, keep the tables clean.
- If you spill food mop it up.
- Every table will have a captain, who will make sure that everyone cleans up their messes.
- At Dewitt, we compost, recycle and yes, even throw some items in the trash. Make sure you know what goes where.



All lost and found materials are given away before the winter break in December. There is usually a large pile of coats, boots, water bottles, and other personal items. Please check the lost and found area before the school break in December to claim missing items.



Students need water bottles at DeWitt for daily use. Our water fountains are not working until the district completes the remediation of the lead problems. The cost and recycling issues of providing cups are prohibitive. Please make sure your student has a reusable water bottle to bring to school each day.

Ping Pong!



Our wildly popular Ping Pong Club will once again be holding Saturday Family and Community Ping Pong Parties beginning January 11th, and every 2nd Saturday of the month EXCEPT April. Please join us whether you are a novice or pro, young or old. All are welcome to our very own International Table Tennis Center!

Donations gratefully accepted and snazzy

DeWitt ping pong t-shirts for sale (\$15) - designed by student Athena Nie.

Contact Carol Hoffman with questions. choffman@icsd.k12.ny.us

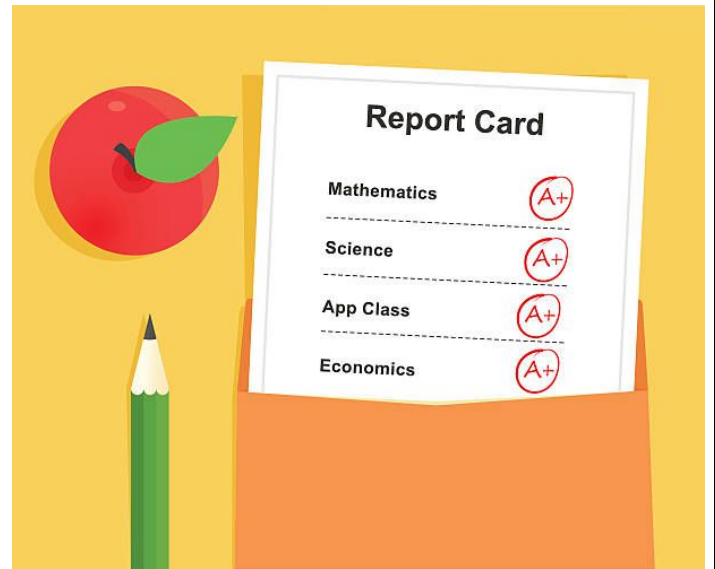
Report Cards

Progress reports and report cards are issued every 5 weeks. Progress reports give you a mid-term view of how your child is doing in his or her classes, and at each 10-week block, report cards are issued. We highly advise that you use the tools available to check weekly on your child's progress (see information above), so there are no surprises when the reports are issued.

Upcoming dates:

Report Card- November 15th

Progress Report- December 20



Transportation Information



Penny Boynton is our school's transportation liaison. She can help you figure out how to get to school events and tell you what transportation opportunities are available in the community.

Dial 2-1-1 for information on current transportation services and supports. Or see ccetompkins.org/community/way2go for more information.

RED (Retired Educators Drive) can also help you get to school meetings. Contact them at least two days in advance by emailing redschoolrides@gmail.com.

TCAT offers student discounts. You can purchase semester passes for youth aged 6-17. Contact them at www.tcatbus.com or call 277-RIDE.

Working Families Transportation Assistance offers up to two months of discounted gas cards. Call Cynthia Kloppel at 274-5022.

6th Grade Chorus Concert

November 15, 2019 at 7:00pm at IHS, Kulp Auditorium, 1401 North Cayuga St. Ithaca, NY 14850 - Students are to arrive at 6:00pm to prepare. All students and caretakers should plan for this event. Suggested Donation \$10. No person will be denied entry. Email Mr. Woodridge at jwoodrid@icsd.k12.ny.us with questions or comments.

FROZEN Jr

The DeWitt Middle School will present Frozen Jr. on December 12, 13, 14 at 7:00pm and December 14 and 15th at 2:00pm in the DeWitt Theater, 560 Warren Rd, Ithaca NY 14850. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$8 for students under 18. Please come out and support the students works. Contact Mr. Woodridge at jwoodrid@icsd.k12.ny.us for any and all questions.



Information from Mr. Woodridge

1. The musical is December 12, 13 and 14 at 7:00pm (call time is 5:30pm) and December 14 and 15th at 2:00pm (call time is 12:30pm). That's two shows on the 14th! We DO NOT have a 7:00pm show on the 15th.

2. Tickets are \$8 for students under 18 and \$10 for adults 18 and older. Ticket forms will go out soon.

3. Spread the word via Facebook. Now, I am a bit of a luddite so I will trust you all will spread the word wide and far. Ms. Janelle Alvstad-Mattson was so kind to have created these pages.: Facebook Drama Club Group that they can join: <https://www.facebook.com/DeWittMiddleSchoolDramaClub/> And the Facebook Event that they can share for help with publicity: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2404776259841156/>

4. We really only have November and a week or two in December to pull the show together and we can do it. Rehearsals will be after school from 3:30-6:00 most days and on weekends (you child will NOT be needed every day). Don't let this scare you please. Day by day. You will find that once we get rolling, it will all be ok.

Team	Teachers	Team Leader
6th Grade Phoenix	Kelly Horrocks (Social Studies) Linda Sterk (ELA) Jordan Roehr (Math) Liz Quadrozzi (Science) Kerry Glenn-Keough (SPED) Denise Park (Reading) Carol Hoffman (ENL)	Jordan Roehr jordan.roehr@icsd.k12.ny.us
6th Grade Fusion	Anne Bechert (Social Studies) Kelly Hackley (ELA) Marietta Gibb (Math) Allison Kootsikis (Science) Nicole Parasiliti (SPED)	
7th Grade Big Brains	Jen Lory-Moran (math) Eric Pritz (SS) Wayne Gottlieb (Science) Aaron Arm and Harry Nichols (ELA)	Jennifer Lory-Moran jlorymor@icsd.k12.ny.us
7th Grade Loading...	Elizabeth Ballistrea (math) Pamela Engram (SS) Cass Petrillose/Cathi Exantus (Science) Isaac Kain (ELA) Caitlin Redfield (Reading) Monica Sherman (SPED) Ange Ward (SPED)	

8th Grade	<p>Susan Danskin (Math) Asia Sandvik/Joe Exantus (Social Studies) Rosina Belcourt (Resource Room, ELA, Social Studies, Spanish) Llanya O'Kane (Math, Homework Support Lab) Caitlin Clancy (Math, ELA lab, Reading) Pamela Engram (Social Studies) Aaron Arm (English) Harry Nichols (English) Kathryn Cernera, ELA Lab Debbie Fishback (Science) Amber Massa (Science) Trisha Porcheddu (Resource Room, Science, Math) Cynthia Stoye (Spanish) Theresa Souchet (ENL) Eric Pritz (Social Studies Homework Support Lab)</p>	<p>Rosina Belcourt rosina.belcourt@icsd.k12.ny.us</p>
Supercore and Multiple Team Saff	<p>Jennifer Kivisild (Music) Buddie Woodridge (Music) Aaron Buck (Orchestra) Michael Treat (Band) David Buchner (Tech) Joseph Shepherd (Tech) Callie Bryant (Art) Amy Cullen (FCS) Jessica Darpino (Health) Johnnie Atkins (PhysEd) Jon Billings (PhysEd) Emily LaFave (PhysEd)</p>	

CAREER DAY - DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL



Date: Friday, December 13, 2019

Snow date: Monday, December 16, 2019

Location: DeWitt Middle School
560 Warren Road. Ithaca. NY

Contact Person: Amy Cullen (amy.cullen@icsd.k12.ny.us)

Please contact Amy Cullen if you can help on this day.

We are looking for presenters to share their careers
with our 8th grade students.



The TSA Club will be holding a Yankee Candle Fundraiser. It will start on November 18th and conclude on December 8th. Contact Amy Cullen for info.

PTA Information

The DeWitt PTA needs your support to provide the best possible learning environment for your student. Please join the PTA and support the organization at whatever level you can.

PTA Membership Form	
Name of Parent or Guardian: _____	
Phone: _____	Email: _____
Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Grade: _____	
Membership fees (covers some of our unit's expenses and national dues.)	
Individual Membership	_____ \$7 (we keep \$3)
Staff Membership	_____ \$7 (we keep \$3)
Additional Membership	_____ \$5 (we keep \$1)
Additional Donation	\$ _____ (we keep 100% see below)
Total:	_____ (cash or check payable to DeWitt PTA)
Would you like to be contacted about future opportunities to volunteer at DeWitt? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Maybe	
Check which area(s) you could possibly volunteer:	
_____ Afterschool Homework Club	
_____ Afterschool Clubs	
_____ Open House	
_____ Staff Appreciation	
_____ 8th grade dance and promotion	
_____ PTA website	
The PTA does not do fundraising. Instead, we periodically do a direct appeal. One hundred percent of the money we raise through this goes to our local unit. Please help us by sending in a donation of any amount. You can send in an envelope labeled PTA to the school, or mail it to: PTA Membership/Donations, 560 Warren Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850	
Please join our listserve at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DeWittpta/join . This service sends out information regularly about happenings at DeWitt and other important information. Check out http://dewittpta.org for more information.	
This first newsletter will be mailed to all families, hereafter, the newsletters will be sent digitally. If you would like to get a paper copy, please contact Penny Boynton at pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us . 607-266-3554	

Coming Together to Support Our School

DeWitt PTA Direct Appeal

Once a year, we reach out to families to contribute to the mission of the DeWitt PTA, which is to help **support our school.**

With your contribution, the PTA funds:

- ❖ Teachers and staff appreciation events
- ❖ School-wide events such as the open house and international/immigration night
- ❖ Scholarships and support for the 6th, 7th and 8th-grade field trips
- ❖ Support for the 8th-grade graduation
- ❖ A lending closet for school musicians

This year, we very much hope to raise enough money to support our amazing DeWitt teachers by helping to fund grants for special projects in their classrooms. We haven't been able to do that in recent years, but with your help, we hope we can do it this year.

The Direct Appeal will run from October 15th to November 15th (but we will happily accept donations at any time). If you are able to contribute to support our school, teachers, and staff, and students, please do! Any amount helps to enrich our students' experience. Together, we can support a strong and vibrant DeWitt community. Please help us to enrich the DeWitt Middle School experience for all, and show our appreciation for our beloved teachers and staff. For more information, please contact Anne Schneider at aschneider34@gmail.com

Ways to give:

-go online and donate <https://dewitt-middle-school-pta-membership.cheddarup.com>

-fill out the bottom portion and return to school with your middle schooler

-fill out the bottom portion of the form and mail it in to the following address

DeWitt Middle School
attention: PTA Direct Appeal
560 Warren Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850

DeWitt PTA Direct Appeal 2019-20

Your Name: _____

Address (if you would like to receive a thank you/acknowledgment):

I would like to contribute \$_____. Enclosed please find my check payable to "DeWitt PTA".

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District, the superintendent, or this school.



Clubs at DeWitt

We'd Love Your Help!

DeWitt Clubs as of 10/11/19 (more will be coming). We are looking for some more club advisors.
 Here are the clubs in need: Pokemon (card game), Coding Club, Art Club (Artistic person needed)
 Climate Activist club, Anime(watching the shows) and Step-dance group. Contact Penny Boynton if
 you can help. pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us

Name	day	time	staff	meeting place
HomeWork Club	M/T/TH	3:20-4:30	Penny Boynton	Library
Jazz Improv Club	Mon.	3:20-4:30	Mr. Treat	Band Room
Chess Club	Mon.	3:20-4:30	Robert Weinberg/Penny	C205
TSA	Tues.	3:20	Mr. Buchner	Tech South
Writers Guild	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Mr. Arm	B204
Guitar club	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Mr North	B206
Art Club	Thurs.	3:20-4:30	No staff yet	Art room
Bass Club	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Mr. Buck /Ms Moss	E204
YearBook Club	Thurs .	3:20-4:30	Ms Smith	Lib.computer Lab
Ping Pong Club	Thurs .	3:20-4:30	Ms. Hoffman	A205
Math Club	Fri.	3:20-4:30	Ms.Doreen Smith/Dr.Cao	C204

Morning Clubs

NJHS	Thurs.	8:00-8:45	Quadrozzi & Arm	Library
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Agency Club

Cooperative Ext.	Tues.	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art room
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D&D/ Magic the Gathering

Board games

Art & Soul	Wed.	3:20-5:30	Starts 11/13	
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Learning Web	Wed.	3:20-5:30	10/2- 12/4/19	
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Fall Community Service Learning

IYB

College Discovery	Mon/Th	3:20-5:30		D110
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Cornell STEP	Tues.	3:20-5:30	Ray Hage	D110
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Go Tutoring	Mon/Thurs.	3:20-5:30	Caitlin Redfield	Library
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2019-2020 Student Voice Council



DeWitt Middle School offers students the opportunity to participate and have a voice in the decisions that are made at the school. Student representatives from each Homebase attend monthly meetings. Below are the details that outline the functioning and expectations of the organization.

Behavior Expectations:

1. **Respect yourselves and each other** - *it's ok to disagree, just please do so respectfully.*
2. When it's a person's turn to talk give them your full attention - ***no side conversations... Don't talk over other people...***
3. **Keep an open mind** when listening, discussing and brainstorming.

Goals:

- To **strengthen DeWitt's sense of community** by giving students opportunities to voice their thoughts, opinions and ideas
 - **Build awareness throughout the DeWitt community** of student thoughts, opinions and ideas
- Provide students with **civic engagement opportunities**
 - **Build skills** that will allow you to be strong civically minded citizens as you get older

Student Representative Roles:

- **Report to monthly meetings** and press conferences on time, with an open mind, and be ready to collaborate with your SVC peers
 - *Class comes 1st ...*
- **Act as a representative to your HOMEbase:**
 - Collect thoughts, opinions, and ideas from HOMEbase peers to share with the Council
 - Following meetings, report meeting summaries to HOMEbases

Press Conferences:

- Typically once a month
- 1 period long
- A panel of rep volunteers (6-8 students)
 - Pose student-generated questions to admin and/or school staff surrounding a topic(s) brought up by students
 - Questions will be provided to the panel
 - Note-taking encouraged
 - Appropriate follow-up questions encouraged
- School administrator(s), teachers and/or other staff will attend depending on the topic(s)