

Residents of the city of Middletown have a wonderful asset, a critical component of a successful society, in Central Academy. Last week I had the opportunity to visit Central, one of the elementary schools in the Middletown district. As soon as I entered the door, I realized Central is a place that values each and every individual and aggressively works on each student's behalf to provide the best education possible for full participation in a strong democratic society. Teachers partner with every student, identifying goals and developing the most appropriate pathway through learning experiences. In the process they thoroughly cover the basic skills, abilities, and attitudes required for active, responsible citizenship and gainful work in today's world. Three things struck me as I visited the school. It felt lively; students were actively engaged in their learning, productively and meaningfully involved in high quality educational endeavor. Secondly, it felt safe; a code of ethics permeated the classrooms and hallways allowing students to focus on and care about learning. Thirdly, students were learning democracy; how to be active and responsible citizens in our society by doing it, not just reading about it. Hats off to the exceptional staff, parents, and students who work so hard every day creating a school that matters.

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