



The BWL Peer Relations Program in Middle & Upper School & Faculty

The Headmaster of *The Birch Wathen Lenox School*, Frank J. Carnabuci III, introduced the ***Peer Relations Program*** to our community in 1998. At its core the program seeks to address the social and emotional topics that naturally arise among peers in all school settings. Additionally, it is designed to introduce students to service-learning opportunities, social justice issues, and community building activities. In these efforts, the program Director, Geoff Fisher, works in conjunction with the three Division Heads, the Director of Civic Engagement, the Grade Deans, the School Psychologists, and the Director of Diversity.

In our **MIDDLE SCHOOL**, 6th and 7th graders participate in regular lunch meetings to discuss issues that arise throughout the year. Beginning this year, our 8th grade students will participate in a year-long Leadership course that will not only teach students how to lead, but also how to develop strong character and qualities for self-leadership.

Additionally, our Middle School has a unique House System that works to celebrate our school values and encourage school spirit and service. Each House dons one of the school colors and represents a part of our school motto, "Integrity, Loyalty, Civility," as well as a fourth aspect, Honor. Each House works as a team to earn points through participation in school events, service opportunities, extracurricular activities, and sports, as well as displays of academic progress, good attendance, and adherence to the Code of Conduct and Honor Code.

In the **UPPER SCHOOL**, our *Student Prefects* are upperclassmen recognized by the administration to serve as mediators and advocates for Upper School students. Each Prefect is responsible for checking in with an assigned group of 3-4 ninth grade students in order to build cross-grade camaraderie and offer guidance for academic and social issues. In addition to their work with the 9th grade, Prefects work with our Student Council to create a positive community through school events, such as Spirit Week and Field Day, and discussion forums on topics that are important to the students.

Finally, through our *Bacon Dee Grants* and with the guidance of our Director of Professional Development, **FACULTY** are encouraged to attend educational workshops, observe master teachers, and continue their own education in order to bring back valuable teaching tools to our school community. In every way possible, we encourage the involvement of all community members in the *Peer Relations Program* in order to foster a unified and healthy school community.