FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 2026

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Setting High Expectations

Students are motivated to work harder and are more engaged for teachers who have high expectations. When teachers set high expectations, it sends a powerful message to students that the teacher believes in their potential. High expectations are not about assigning more homework or raising stress levels. Setting high expectations for students requires making clear goals, offering strong support, and providing feedback. High expectations foster a growth mindset by building the confidence a student needs to get out of their comfort zone; therefore raising the bar for student achievement. Additionally, having high expectations builds trust. Students will often meet or exceed their teacher's expectations when trust is established. See Common Ground Framework for Cultural Awareness Competency #8.

READ: The Necessity Of Having High Expectations
WATCH: How To Set High Expectations For Students

OCTOBER APPRECIATION

Global Diversity Awareness Month

Italian American Heritage Month
Italian American Heritage Month VIDEO

10/10 World Mental Health Day
World Mental Health Day VIDEO

10/12 Indigenous Peoples' Day
Indigenous Peoples' Day SONG

10/21 International Pronouns Day

STUDENT VOICE

Question: What does your teacher do that makes you feel like you belong?
Answer: In Kindergarten, he had a different handshake for every student in the class. Every time I would see him after that, he always remembered it. Now I have him again in 3rd grade and we still have the same special handshake!
-Jesus, grade 3
Mr. Dillihay's class(Candlebrook)



Things That Make You Go Hmm...

Low Expectations vs High Expectations
Are students given accommodations based on their zone of proximal development or their comfort zone?

LISTEN/READ: Communicating High Expectations To Learners

