



CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

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News Release

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Centennial High School Partners with Youth Frontiers to Build a Culture of Respect and Inspire Change

October 5, 2015 (Circle Pines, MN)—To enhance our positive school culture, Centennial High School will partner with Youth Frontiers, the leading character education organization in the Upper Midwest, to host a comprehensive Respect Retreat for the 10th grade class on October 6-8 at Centennial High School, 4709 North Road, Circle Pines. Students are assigned to a retreat day based on their advisory, making a big school feel small. Youth Frontiers delivers programs that build positive school communities and strengthen student character.

The retreats use games, music, small-group discussions and inspiring stories that engage students' hearts and break down walls between young people. Throughout the retreat day, students begin to exhibit traits of true character – mending relationships, stating acts of courage and respecting themselves and others. Comprehensive follow-up materials also provide a way for educators and students to extend the impact of the retreat. Small groups will be facilitated by Senior Peer Leaders and Centennial High School Support Service Staff.

“We teach values – unapologetically – because we want today’s young people to make tomorrow’s world better,” said **Joe Cavanaugh, founder and CEO of Youth Frontiers**.

According to the website for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the best way to prevent bullying is to stop it before it starts. Moreover, the best prevention strategies engage the entire school community in building a culture of respect.

“At Youth Frontiers, we believe that every person matters, so we exist to create experiences that build community and inspire human connection,” said **Cavanaugh**. “In community, we treat one another better. We take ownership to make our school better. We hold each other accountable for our actions. In community, we rely on mutual respect, kindness and moral courage.”

Educators agree that Youth Frontiers serves as a catalyst for change in their schools. “In partnership with our community, we believe that all students deserve a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment,” said **Principal Tom Breuning, Centennial High School**. “Respect Retreats are one of the ways we instill the value of respect in all of our students”

Founded in 1987, Youth Frontiers’ dynamic retreats inspire students to live out the values of kindness, courage, respect and responsibility in their personal and school lives. Youth Frontiers aims to change the way kids treat each other in every hallway, lunch line and classroom of every school in America. Last school year, the nationally renowned nonprofit held 766 retreats for 118,000 students and educators. Since its inception, Youth Frontiers has reached more than 1.4 million through their character development programs.

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