

July 2002

Dear Secondary Principals:

The most current research demonstrates that the emotional climate in schools is of fundamental importance in helping all students learn. Recognizing this, over half of the elementary and middle level schools in our state have during the past two years participated in a State Department of Education and Operation Respect CT initiative titled ***Don't Laugh at Me*** (DLAM). This program helps address the problems of teasing, ridiculing, and harassing that occur so often in schools.

Building on the overwhelming response from elementary and middle schools to *Don't Laugh at Me*, the Connecticut Association of Schools, in collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education and Operation Respect CT, has developed a climate enhancing training program for secondary schools entitled ***Respect Me!***. The *Respect Me!* program aims at having school teams create their own vision and plan for increasing the respect quotient in their schools. The knowledge base of information from the *Don't Laugh At Me* program is shared as well as some of the activities from the curriculum that lend themselves to adoption at the secondary level. Information about other climate enhancing programs that have been successful in some secondary schools is also provided.

Schools who are committed to this issue are invited to bring a team of at least 4-6 people to a day of training at the recently expanded CAS facility, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT. High school teams are offered a choice of four dates: September 17 and October 9, 2002; March 5 and April 9, 2003. Teams from middle level schools may register for either November 15, 2002, or May 1, 2003.

The team must include at least one administrator, one teacher, and two students. It may be supplemented by parents, other teachers and/or administrators, secretarial and/or maintenance staff, or additional students.

If your school is interested in developing, implementing, and/or sustaining a climate enhancing program, please complete and mail the enclosed registration form. Schools may also register by fax (1-203-250-1345) or online at [www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org). Registrations are processed on a first come, first serve basis and each of the sessions is limited to eighty participants.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Buckley  
Assistant Executive Director

# ***RESPECT ME!***

## **Facilitators:**

**Nancy Letney Pugliese**; Safe and Drug-Free School Consultant; Bureau of School, Family and Community Partnerships; State of CT Department of Education  
(Phone: 1-860-928-0349 - email: [nancy.pugliese@po.state.ct.us](mailto:nancy.pugliese@po.state.ct.us))

**Jo Ann Freiberg**, Executive Director, Operation Respect CT  
(Phone: 1-860-721-7770 - email: [JoAnnFreiberg@aol.com](mailto:JoAnnFreiberg@aol.com))

**Mike Buckley**, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools  
(Phone: 1-203-250-1111 - email: [mbuckley@casciac.org](mailto:mbuckley@casciac.org))

## **Workshop Goals:**

- Focus on issues of climate with school teams committed to increasing their school's *respect quotient*.
- Increase awareness about the *Don't Laugh At Me* program prevalent in many CT elementary and middle level schools.
- Prepare for a progression of climate enhancing activities from the middle level to the high school.
- Have each school team leave with a specific "next step" designed to create a more compassionate environment for teaching and learning.

## **Workshop Schedule:**

8:00 – 8:30	Registration and Refreshments
8:30 – 10:00	Overview of <i>Don't Laugh At Me Program</i> (Large Group)
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:00	Consideration of Essential Questions (Grouped by Role)
11:00 – 11:30	Reporting Out (Large Group)
11:30 – 12:15	Fish Bowl Exercise
12:15 – 12:45	Lunch
12:45 – 1:30	School Action Planning – First or Next Steps (School Teams)
1:30 – 2:15	Reporting Out and Wrap-Up

## **Directions to CAS:**

**From Danbury and points west**, take I-84 east to exit 27 (I-691), take exit 3 (Route 10) off I-691, right at end of ramp on to Route 10 south, after approximately 1.5 miles turn left on to Realty Drive opposite T-Bowl Lanes.

**From Hartford and points east**, take I-84 west to exit 27 (I-691), take exit 3 (Route 10) off I-691, right at end of ramp on to Route 10 south and follow directions above.

**From I-91 south or north**, take I-691 in Meriden west to exit 3 (Route 10), at end of ramp turn left on to Route 10 south and follow directions above.

The Connecticut Association of Schools  
*Serving Schools and Principals*

**RESPECT ME!**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

School \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**SESSIONS (Please circle choice)**

**High Schools:**

**Middle Schools:**

Tuesday, September 17, 2002

Friday, November 15, 2002

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

**Names of Participants  
Number\***

**Title/Position:**

**S.S.**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please complete form and mail with a check for \$20.00 per person (registration, refreshments, and lunch) to CAS, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410. Registration may also be accomplished by fax (1-203-250-1345) or email ([www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org)). Registration will be processed on a first come, first serve basis and confirmed by CAS. Each session will be limited to eighty participants.

P.O. Number (if registering by fax or email) \_\_\_\_\_

\*CEU credits (.5) will be awarded by the Connecticut Association of Schools for participation.