

# CSH 8th-graders face challenges at Caumsett

On Sept. 5, three days into the new school year, 177 eighth-graders from Cold Spring Harbor Junior-Senior High School piled onto buses for a field trip to Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve. This wasn't an ordinary field trip. The obvious challenge was to complete the tasks. The hidden goal was for the students to break down barriers and work cooperatively with peers who weren't necessarily friends—all in the hope of increasing respect for everyone and reducing instances of bullying.

Students were placed into teams of 15 and were required to engage in a series of activities including icebreakers, problem solving tasks and a physical challenge.

Each group was facilitated by a BOCES trained teacher as well as a member of the school faculty. Students found themselves working side by side with peers who until then were just classmates but were now becoming friends.

As a result of these challenges, the students became more aware of the existence of cliques and behaviors that

can unknowingly exclude others. They practiced strong communication and negotiation skills through listening and speaking to provide input into the way the team solved each of their challenges.



Photo from Cold Spring Harbor school district  
Kids work together on a challenge.