

For more information, please call 732-946-4771 x240
or visit www.collierschool.com

Collier School News

...a state-approved, private, non-profit school for students with disabilities

Fall 2011

Theme for 2011/2012 School Year
 "Promise me you will always remember: You are
 braver than you believe, stronger than you seem,
 and smarter than you think."
 -- Winnie the Pooh

160 Conover Road
 Wickatunk, NJ 07765



Highlights

- Safe, supportive environment for students in grades 6 through 12
- Academic success through creative learning strategies and approaches
- Individual and group therapy
- Sports and clubs provide normalizing educational experiences
- Beautiful 260-acre campus in Marlboro Township

Outcomes

- 79% of the Class of 2011 pursued higher education

Counseling

Six Masters-level clinicians provide individual therapy and case management for every student, meeting at least once a week or more if needed. Group therapy is also offered, including grief, adoption, empowerment, survivor, addiction and socialization.



"Everyone [at Collier] cares, and there is no bullying or picking on people. There's no popularity contest here!"
 -- Jonathan, 7th grade



(far left) Safeir tests how solutions react in a science lab; (left) Jon challenges himself on our Climbing Wall during PE class.

Middle School Students Thrive in New Setting

In response to requests from school districts and parents, Collier School expanded its well-respected educational program to include students in grades six, seven and eight. From the moment of their arrival, there was no question that these youngsters would fit right in. As you can read from the quotes, their enthusiasm for Collier is palpable and they are well on their way to loving school again!

"We made our own web pages and are learning about the stock market...Soon we're gonna dissect a frog!" -- Safeir, 6th grade



(above) Mrs. Peterson helps Mike with his assignment; (right) Carmen frosts cupcakes in Foods class in preparation for the next day's lunch.





In addition to our intramural soccer, basketball, and softball teams, academically- and behaviorally-eligible students may participate in Friday clubs that incorporate a wide variety of interests. The Fall clubs include:

- Acoustic Guitar
- Dance
- Poetry
- Archery
- SAT Prep
- Hiking
- Go Green
- Relaxation
- Biking
- Service Learning

Clubs and Activities




"I'm actually excited to go to school in the morning...it's exactly what I needed. I bet there's no other place like this!" -- Tom, 9th grade

Principal's Message

Dear Friends,

I am excited to welcome our returning students and all of our new students to Collier. As you know, Collier is a place where students who have not been reaching their potential in the traditional school environment, because of special emotional, behavioral or social challenges, can get a fresh start. We welcome those whose sensitivity has placed them at greater risk of being hurt. We welcome those who are soft of heart and whose trying experiences have left them feeling bitter and devalued. With smaller class sizes, a safe and nurturing environment, a professional and supportive teaching and counseling staff,

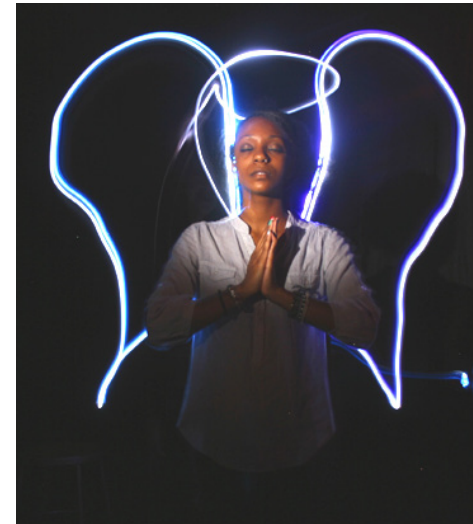
and a welcoming student body, kids who dreaded going to school gradually begin to feel comfortable in their own skin again. They are no longer on the outside looking in because others think they are different, but are a part of a community where they truly belong as they are. I am proud to be the principal of Collier School where creative education takes place, where kindness and respect are the norm, and where hope for a better future for youth and their families is restored.

Sincerely,

 Raymond Bock
 Principal

What's New at Collier

While the Middle School is our big news, we are very excited to introduce several other new improvements to our program this school year.

- The **CARE Team (Creating a Respectful Environment)** was initiated to investigate and address any bullying or harassment issues. While we have had a Mediation Counselor working with our teens for years, this is a more formalized, team-approach to addressing any concerns.
- Our **Digital Photography, Digital Video, and Sculpture classes** moved into a new "studio" classroom that features a ShopBot (3-D Router machine) and eight desktops with high-tech video-editing capabilities



"I have more friends than I ever thought possible, and I'm taking more responsibility than I ever did before." -- "Sarah," 11th grade

Did you know...?

- All students engage in a small-group Orientation session in September to welcome them and ask for feedback on their experience thus far.
- Classes benefit from hands-on learning experiences such as Maple Sugaring at Kateri Environmental Center, another educational program on our 260-acre campus
- Service Learning is a key component of Collier School, with monthly trips to soup kitchens and nursing homes
- One of our students participated in a 2-week Junior Statesmen civics education and leadership program at Princeton University this summer



(left) An "angel among us," Digital Photography student Kelsey is the subject of her class' digitally-enhanced photo; (above) As part of their Physics lab to calculate sphere acceleration, Megan rolls an aluminum ball while Mike times it.