



Why your school needs to be part of the next **Human Rights Academy** meeting on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

## It's about **REBUILDING COMMUNITY**: reaching across the divide.

In our gathering last spring, we provided a lot of open space for kids to describe what the pandemic has done to them, their families and their schools. The most powerful message we took from hearing them was how they felt Covid had stripped a lot of civility and compassion from their school cultures. People were edgier, angrier and felt more entitled to lash out when things weren't doing well. As they – and we - are fully aware, this loss afflicts our country generally. Schools across the country are losing faculty and administrators at accelerated rates. Even referees and bus drivers are hard to find.

So we listened to the kids and partnered up with Capemediation.org to design a program that will train our fall attendees in some basic conflict-resolution strategies. Cape Mediation trains people for mediation in the Massachusetts courts system as well as in school and corporate life. We'll be calling on students and staff from Nauset High School where a pilot program has been thriving already. As they'll tell you, the mediation goal is not victory, or squashing someone – but a

path forward that all concerned are willing to live with.

If your school lost its Human Rights Academy connection during Covid, please consider either re-booting a club – or subsuming it under an existing student community-service organization. If a student team from your school joins us this October, (Middle and upper school teams are welcome) they'll be bringing new skills and viewpoints back to you, energized to share, to teach, and to return your school to civility and improved tolerance and respect.

For additional information, please contact the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission: [hrc@capcod.gov](mailto:hrc@capcod.gov) (508) 375-6611 A community service of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission

**HUMAN RIGHTS ACADEMY – UNITING  
CAPE STUDENTS IN LOCAL AND CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT**