



Advocacy & Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
245 Genesee Street – Utica, NY 13501

**For Immediate Release
December 10, 2013**

Aida Mariani, director
Communications & Public Relations
Community Development
315.272.1532
amariani@thearcolc.org

Deborah Barrett
Community Development
315.272.1533
dbarrett@thearcolc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transformers Visit Westmoreland MS

Utica, NY – The focus this year at Westmoreland Middle School has centered on "Respect and Dignity," and this was at the center of the message from The Transformers, a group from The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, who visited the school recently to foster disability awareness.

“Once in a while, someone comes along who leaves a lasting impression on our lives. I think that most of the students and adults in the middle school would agree that The Transformers certainly left a lasting impression,” said Eric Coriale, principal at Westmoreland MS. “[T]hey spread their message of compassion, dignity, integrity, respect, and self-advocacy through disability awareness - sharing their personal journeys, goals for the future, and hopes for how others will treat them. Our students asked countless meaningful questions to heighten their understanding of others with disabilities, and displayed kindness, empathy, and respect during each presentation.” Coriale encourages parents to ask their children about their time with The Transformers and how their message has influenced how they think about others.

The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC is a non-profit human services agency which provides advocacy and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oneida and Lewis counties.

#####

Photo provided: arc_transformers.jpg

Photo caption: Principal Eric Coriale with Arc Transformers (L-R) Toan, Mark, Korinne and Gus.