

## **MIX IT UP TOMPKINS**

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE:**

Our project objective was to provide an opportunity for 6th graders at DeWitt Middle school to interact with classmates they didn't know or socialize with on a regular basis, during a lunch period at school. The goal of this interaction was to help break down stereotypes and social barriers that exist between cliques so that kids could begin developing the skills they need to interact with people who are different from them.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

Ron Acerra, Principal, Dewitt Middle School

Anne Bechert, sixth-grade English teacher, Dewitt Middle School

Dewitt cafeteria

Dewitt sixth- grade students

Wegmans

Cayuga Radio Group

Cornell University's Ordinary People Theatre Group

Cornell University's Tradition students

### **PROJECT OUTCOMES:**

Through Mix It Up, we had the opportunity to engage with kids and teachers at Dewitt. The school will continue to have an annual Mix It Up day and to include teachings around tolerance in the curriculum during the month that Mix It Up will take place. We are hoping that continued interactions between people and groups will help change the culture in the school, making it a more inclusive environment where everyone feels like a valued member of the DeWitt community.