

Respecting the opinion of others

It only takes a quick glance on social media to find both pros and cons on an issue.

People express their thoughts, and frequently, they become self-righteous in promoting their beliefs.

There is nothing wrong with that. Freedom of speech is a privilege guaranteed to citizens in the Bill of Rights. That should not be taken lightly.

Stand firm for what you believe is right. You make sense of our world in whatever way you feel is best.

However, your opinion is not the only one.

For example, whether or not parents choose to immunize their children is an issue that has been in the forefront. Frankly, it is a hot topic.

You are angry that other parents would put your children at risk from their disregard for the importance of vaccinations in society.

On the other hand, not everyone will agree with you, and I personally know of a couple situations where family members have opposing views. One set has home schooled their children strictly based on that line of reasoning, and they do not play together with their cousins.

Follow your heart, but allow room in there for a little compassion for other human beings with differing ideas than yours.

Then there is the decision for a school district to teach cursive handwriting, or not, at the appropriate age. What once was the old Palmer Method and later modified to a simpler version, goes back and forth on curriculum committees.

With computer technology and ease of access, it makes it harder to justify why cursive handwriting is necessary.

I remember how scandalous when I was an early proponent of using disposable diapers and throwing out cloth ones for the convenience. Simply put, I was a tired, over-worked young mother, and jumped at the easy way out.

All the climate concerns weren't in the forefront then. I seriously would consider my decision today, but that is not the point here.

Speaking of protecting our environment, back when recycling was getting introduced into our everyday way of life with the Waste Management Act, there were heated debates about the worth of it all. Would people take it seriously? Today, we are debating plastic straws versus paper ones, and plastic or paper bags.

Merging small rural school districts has come up on the radar once again and it is being bantered about on the drawing boards in Albany. You hear rising concern from folks living in the sparsely populated counties about the feasibility of such plans from a practical standpoint.

You are a secure person if you are able to look at both sides of an issue and form your opinion without denigrating someone with an opposing viewpoint.

Someone once told me this piece of wisdom: on either side of you live neighbors that view life differently than you, but when push comes to shove and you are in desperate need of help, they are the first to come offering the shirt off their backs.