

After his presentation of NE High School, Wiseman was sought by proponents of alternative designs for high schools and urged to present a contrasting view of schooling. He agreed to go to Central Park East in Harlem of NYC. The school primarily represented the vision of Debbie Meier.

Seymour Fliegel of NYC District 4's alternative school program wrote of Debbie:

in the wake of their success [as an elementary school], Meier began to see the need for a secondary school as well, to accommodate not only the graduates of her schools, but other students who might respond to open classrooms. Though Meier had spent her entire career as an elementary school teacher, she was fascinated by the challenge of starting a secondary school that ran from grades seven through twelve. About this time, Professor TheodoreSizer of Brown University was organizing his National Coalition of Essential Schools. Sizer propounded nine principles. Briefly stated, these principles include the idea that less is more; that it is better to know some things well than to attempt to cover many things superficially; that high standards must be set for all students; that students demonstrate mastery of their subjects through exhibitions and portfolios; that teaching and learning must be personalized; that students are perceived as workers and teachers as coaches; and, finally, that youngsters discover answers and solutions to problems by being active learners. In Sizer, Meier found a kindred spirit and an effective ally. She based her new high school, Central Park East Secondary School, on Sizer's principles, and the school opened its doors in 1985.

Visit the school via Wiseman's film, make notes of critical incidents in the first column of your worksheet and provide an interpretation of the incidents in the second column. Pay particular attention to Mr. Green Shirt, whom you will see in several different scenes. Be sure to explain his meaning in this school.

As Team 8 explain CPESS's theory of schooling by choosing a metaphor that captures its meaning. When you have posted your metaphor with its supporting incidents, review the posting of your colleagues.