

The Restorative School

The Vision: Imagine a Restorative School where.....

- Students and adults work together...helping....sharing....trusting
- Students and adults respect, appreciate and celebrate their diverse backgrounds and dreams, creating a supportive environment
- Everyone can express feelings, anger or frustration, in ways that do not hurt others
- Students are supported in restorative dialogues and circles each day
- Conflicts are peacefully resolved

The Why: A Restorative School

- Builds positive, respectful relationships across the whole school community; every student has a sense of belonging.
- Teaches students and adults how to resolve conflicts and restore relationships when things go wrong.
- Commits to a core belief that disputes and disagreements create obligations to the community, to right the wrongs, and repair the harms caused by conflict.
- Supports a culture that gives opportunity for growth in relational problem-solving skills and creates a calm and respectful learning environment with less disruptions.

The Paradigm Shift: From punishment to accountability

Restorative Practices change the school climate rather than only responding to misbehavior and broken rules. Rather than a consequence or punishment imposed top-down, the new paradigm gives back the conflict or harm created, back to the parties most involved to be responsible for resolution and community accountability.

The Structures: A Restorative School has

- A shared philosophy and system-wide structures that place relationships at the heart of the learning experience
- A goal to change the school climate rather than merely respond to misbehavior
- A whole-school approach for all adults and students to receive ongoing training in restorative practices
- A student and adult leadership team established to promote and support the implementation of restorative practices
- Data to analyze trends to inform outcomes and school climate.
- Time to talk, listen and understand the harm, the needs, and to make agreements

The Tools: of Restorative Practices that build community and manage conflicts

- Relationships
- Restorative Communication: Affective Statements and Restorative Questions
- Classroom Circles
- Rupture – Repair Conversations
- Mediations
- Formal Restorative Conferences