

## Restorative Practice at Columbia School District

Restorative Practice is not new, many schools have been using it for over 20 years. It has been proven to improve behavior, respect and responsibility within a community.

Schools using this approach have found that they have been able to:

- ◆ **REDUCE:** Exclusions, disruptive behavior, conflict and bullying.
- ◆ **IMPROVE:** Behavior learning and attendance.
- ◆ **DEVELOP:** Empathy, honesty, responsibility, accountability, emotional literacy and a positive learning environment.



*Restorative Practices:  
The key to a  
positive  
learning  
environment*

## Restorative Practices

The underlying premise of Restorative Practices rests with positive changes when those in positions of authority do things with our students, rather than to them or for them.

Youth place significant attention on how they are treated. When punished, it is easy for them to fixate on the harm they experience rather than how their behavior may affect others.

This focus leads to resentment towards the punisher. This resentment turns into resistance to participation in activities and disassociation and/or aggression towards others.

For these reasons Restorative Practices are important for the future of our students.



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## Restorative Practice Information for Parents



What is Restorative Practice?  
Will it affect my child?



### **How does Restorative Practice benefit my child and the school environment?**

Restorative Practices keep students *in school learning*, rather than removing them for suspension or expulsion. Restorative approaches help develop a happier school where the focus is on learning, not conflict. We hope that your child will enjoy coming to school, because they feel safe and respected. They will know that when things go wrong we will do everything we can do to assist them in correcting the situation and remedy the conflict.

Restorative approaches will encourage pupils to think about how their behavior has affected others, both their peers and their teachers.

## **Circles and Community**

You may find that your child's teachers and classmates are working together to build a strong community of learners and develop good communication and language skills.

To help them do this we have introduced an opportunity to include and integrate Restorative Practices and Circles into their learning environment.

Restorative Practices and Circles use slightly different language to symbolize the respectful way of speaking to each other and communicating about how they are feeling about the conflict.

## **About Restorative Practices**

**When students find themselves in conflict or upset we will ask them:**

- ◆ **What happened?**
- ◆ **How did it make you feel?**
- ◆ **How did it make them feel?**
- ◆ **Who did it affect?**
- ◆ **What needs to happen now to remedy (fix) the situation?**
- ◆ **How will you prevent this type of conflict from occurring in the future?**

**Restorative Practices take incidents that might otherwise result in punishment and create opportunities for students to:**

- ◆ **Become aware of the impact of their behavior.**
- ◆ **Understand the obligation to take responsibility for their actions.**
- ◆ **Take steps toward making things right.**

