

Stout Middle School

Restorative Practices

Definition

Restorative Practices are based on principles and processes that emphasize the importance of positive relationships as central to building community and repairing relationships when harm has occurred.

Through restorative practices, members of the school community will:

1. Have an opportunity to be heard
2. Understand the greater impact of one's actions
3. Learn to take responsibility
4. Repair the harm one's actions may have caused
5. Recognize one's role in maintaining a safe school environment
6. Build upon and expand on personal relationships in the school community
7. Recognize one's role as a positive contributing member of the school community.

At the core, restorative practices are about building and restoring relationships.

Traditional Approach	Restorative Approach
School rules are broken.	People and relationships are harmed.
Justice focuses on establishing guilt.	Justice identifies needs and responsibility.
Accountability = punishment	Accountability = understanding impact and repairing harm
Justice directed at the offender; the victim is ignored.	Offender, victim, and school all have direct roles in the justice process.
Rules and intent outweigh whether outcome is positive or negative.	Offender is responsible for harmful behavior, repairing harm and working towards positive outcomes.
Limited opportunity for expressing remorse or making amends.	Opportunity given to make amends and express remorse.

Circle discussions kicking off our school-wide bully prevention program.

