

Restorative Practices at MCMS

Restorative Practices is "an approach that proactively builds positive school communities while dramatically reducing discipline referrals, suspensions and expulsions." ¹ The underlying premise of Restorative Practices is the belief that people will make positive changes when those in positions of authority do things with them rather than to them or for them. We feel strongly that the shift to these practices have very positive impact on our school community.

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

- Become aware of the impact of their behavior.
 - *To listen and respond to the needs of the person harmed and the person who harmed.*
- Understand the obligation to take responsibility for their actions.
 - *To encourage accountability and responsibility through personal reflection within a collaborative planning process.*
- Take steps toward making things right.
 - *To create caring climates to support healthy communities.*

We will continue to implement these practices in our classrooms and advisee groups to help our students foster a positive sense of community and responsibility for their own actions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions about restorative practices.

Reference:

¹ Costello, Bob. Wachtel, Joshua. Wachtel, Ted. *The restorative Practices Handbook: for Teachers, Disciplinarians and Administrators. International Institute for Restorative Practices. 2009*