Restorative Justice:
Transforming Lives, Hope for the Future!

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History of Restorative Justice
- Draws on ancient concepts and practices
- Used by Native Americans and New Zealand indigenous peoples
- Focuses on obligations to victim and family/community

History of Restorative Justice
- Modern interest in RJ in 1970’s and 1980’s
- Victim Rights movement
- Modern Applications: Family Group Conferencing, Child/Family Team Meetings, Community Justice Panels, Victim Offender Mediation/Conferencing

Principles of Restorative Justice
- Asks “Who has been harmed?”
- “How have they been harmed?”
- “What should be done to repair the harm?”
- Whose obligation is it?

Principles of Restorative Justice
- Concerned with appropriate consequences
- Accountability emphasizes empathy and repair of harm
- Encourage use of collaborative process to achieve accountability
- Can be used with traditional punishment or as an alternative

Unwanted Results of Traditional Punishment
- Creates fear/negative feelings and resentment toward the enforcer
- Blaming others
- Short term compliance
  - Only if enforcer is present
  - Don’t understand/adopt the reason for the rule
Benefits of Restorative Practice
- Creates empathy and strengthens relationships
- Stresses responsibility & accountability
- Creates long-term compliance & understanding
- Empowers change and growth

Adolescent Brain Research
- Recent research on the development of the brain reveals that the adolescent brain continues to develop well after the age of 20.
- The frontal lobe is the last part to develop. It is the home of decision-making and judgment.

Adolescent Brain Research
- Using research proven evidence-based interventions during adolescence holds great promise for producing lasting behavioral change.

Adolescent Brain Research
- “Just because they're physically mature, they may not appreciate the consequences or weigh information the same way as adults do. So, [although] somebody looks physically mature, their brain may in fact not be mature.”
  - Deborah Yarapel-Todd, PhD
  Brain Imaging Laboratory, McLean Hospital
  Harvard University Medical School

Restorative Discipline
A problem cannot be solved by continuing to think at the same level at which the problem was created.

- Albert Einstein

West Philadelphia High School Video
Circle Process is a container for RJ

- Circles provide a process for bringing people together as equals to talk about very difficult issues and painful experiences in an atmosphere of respect and concern for everyone.

Circle Process is a container for RJ

- Circles symbolize shared leadership, equality, connection and inclusion. It also promotes focus, accountability and participation from all.

Circle Process is a container for RJ

Circle Process is a container for RJ

- Circles create a space in which all people, regardless of their role, can reach out to one another as equals and recognize their mutual interdependence.

Models and Applications of Restorative Processes

- School/Staff Circle
- Truancy Mediation
- Bullying
- Discipline hearings/ Rule Violations
- Beginning-of-day circles/End-of-day circles
- Student organization meetings
- Parent/Teacher Conferencing
- Reintegration after suspension

Credits

- Restorative Discipline for Schools: Teaching responsibility: creating caring climates. (Amerutz & Mullet, 2008)

We are in this together!
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