

# Restorative Practices

## Middle School Restorative Practices

### Reflection Sheet: Family

The video explores two schools' implementation of Restorative Practices. Use the following questions to reflect on the information presented and to frame your own thoughts about Restorative Practices.

- 1. Patrick Burns, compares middle school to a roller coaster. He says, "This is the front car of the roller coaster! No seat belt, hands up, terrifying, and up and down and twist and turn at all times." Chart examples of each of the descriptors, and then discuss whether you think this is a good description of middle school.

| <b>Principal Burns's description</b>         | <b>Your interpretation</b><br>What does Mr. Burns mean by these words? | <b>Your personal examples</b><br>Support or refute! |
|--|--|---|
| This is the front car of the roller coaster! |  |   |
| No seat belt                                 |  |   |
| Hands up                                     |  |   |
| Terrifying                                   |  |   |
| Up and down                                  |  |   |
| Twist and turn at all times                  |  |   |

2. In the video, various students tell us how the practice of Restorative Circles have affected them. One young woman says, "We're learning about each other but it kinda made it deeper," and a young man says, "It builds trust, equality and community... and it opened my mind more." How do these statements make you feel about your child participating in this practice? Why?

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3. Wuta Onda, a teacher from Lyons Community School, says that Restorative Practices "help build the human side" in school. What does that mean? Do you think schools have traditionally ignored "the human side"? Explain your answer.

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4. Why is it important, as Khadene Salmon-Wallace says, to build bonds between students and teachers? How do they seem to do this in Advisory Circles? How do you build bonds at home?

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5. Priscilla Prutzman, Staff Developer at MS 217, says that research shows Peer Mediation helps "student self-esteem go sky high." From what you observed in the video, how does Peer Mediation build sky high self-esteem? How do you work with your child to build self-esteem?

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6. What did you notice about the students involved in the Peer Mediation process? How would you describe their demeanor? How do you see your child participating in a process such as this?

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7. Patrick Burns, principal of MS 217, says that middle school children are “still idealistic; they still believe that their purpose is to change the world.” Do you agree or disagree? Why? How would Restorative Practices help middle school students “change the world”?

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8. Taeko Onishi, principal of Lyons Community School, says, “We expect our young people to be amazing. Restorative Practices gives them the opportunity to be those things.” In what ways do we expect young people to be amazing? How do we support them in their journey to be amazing? From what you observed in the video, how do Restorative Practices give them the opportunity to be amazing?

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