

Michael C. Barolak

Saint Louis, MO 63123

michael@restoreEDU.net

(314) 856-2102

Transformational leader with a commitment to creating, improving, and executing organizational systems that intentionally benefit all students, staff and stakeholders. Passionate learner and skilled trainer with experience in developing staff and students, building relationships, coaching and managing projects. Strong collaborator and independent thinker focused on furthering district goals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CharacterPlus, St. Louis, MO

Program Facilitator

July 2022- Present

- Supports various programs offered by CharacterPlus which develop student and adult leaders in the areas of social and emotional learning, equity and social justice

Parkway School District, St. Louis, MO

Director of Social Emotional Support Services

July 2018 - June 2022

- Promotes all work and district initiatives with an intentional equity mindset and focus to support all students
- Oversees the development, management, and training of district staff and resources supporting identification and response to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, as well as oversight of staff training and development
- Increases capacity of the Social Emotional Behavioral team (4) to support the needs of elementary and early childhood buildings/teams/teachers to better identify, respond to and support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students
- Engages elementary stakeholders to collaborate on defining and improving the systemic work of problem-solving structures through the lens of equity
- Selects, develops and supervises the professional development of all Care Coordinators (18) to support their ability to best serve the most intense social, emotional and mental health needs of students
- Advances the district's goal of creating trauma-informed schools through the ongoing development of building and district leaders
- Leads the Social Emotional Action Team to focus on creating action-oriented work embedding Character Education, Restorative Practices, Trauma Informed Care, Social and Emotional Learning and Mindfulness
- Facilitates Parkway's Mental Health Task Force and ensures the Board of Education-approved goals progress through oversight and evaluation
- Guides schools on the development and implementation of school and classroom approaches that are reflective of best practices around student social-emotional and behavioral needs
- Establishes and maintains relationships with community agencies and resources that support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and families
- Orchestrates verbal de-escalation training for all teachers and oversees staff training on Non-Violent Crisis Intervention
- Leader on District Wellness Committee

Coordinator of Student Discipline and Alternative Student Programs

July 2005 - June 2018

- Initiated district wide professional development to build foundation and capacity for restorative practices
- Developed training for elementary, middle and high school students to serve as restorative leaders in their school communities
- Spearheaded restorative practice trainings throughout the region and state
- Collaborated with curriculum coordinators to embed character education framework into teaching staff development
- Engaged administrators, teachers, counselors, students and community members in reviewing and revising district policies through the lenses of equity, restorative practices and character education
- Worked with schools to ensure fairness, consistency and equity when addressing student behaviors
- Served as hearing officer for all student discipline cases and Board of Education discipline hearings
- Collaborated with Special School District, family/adult courts, and police jurisdictions when addressing student behavior
- Coordinated social/emotional support services through community agencies, including St. Louis Children's Service Fund
- Designed and implemented professional development for school administrators regarding discipline processes and procedures

- Developed and revised alternative programs to maintain focus on student needs
- Managed daily operations of district's alternative programs serving middle and high school students

School Social Worker

August 1999 - June 2005

- Provided crisis intervention and individual and group counseling for students and families attending district alternative programs
- Assessed, referred and linked students and families with district and community resources
- Developed interventions for suspended students using district and community resources

Conference presentations:

- **Missouri School Board Association (November 2021)**
 - "A Proactive Approach to Student Mental Health"
- **International Institute of Restorative Practices (October 2019)**
 - "Engaging Student Leaders in Creating a Restorative School Community"
- **National School Climate Conference (August 2019)**
 - "Using Mindfulness, Trauma Awareness, and Restorative Practices to Create a Positive Community"
- **National Forum on Character Education (October 2017)**
 - "Using Mindfulness, Restorative Practices, and Trauma Awareness to Create a Positive Community"
- **International Institute of Restorative Practices (October 2017)**
 - "Our Restorative Journey: Building a Restorative Foundation in a Large Suburban School District"
- **American School Health Association (October 2017)**
 - "Using Restorative Practices in School Health"
- **National Association of School Nurses (July 2017)**
 - "Restorative Practices and the Role of the School Nurse in Developing Positive School Climate"

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Peace Corps, Sao Tome and Principe, West Africa

Community Development Volunteer

June 1994 - August 1996

- Collaborated with community residents to identify community concerns and brainstorm action plans for prioritizing and solving
- Helped to initiate and manage community projects that promoted resident participation, improvement of infrastructure and development of cooperatives
- Worked as liaison between international funding agencies and community members to educate residents on grant writing and project management

Arcturis, St. Louis, MO

Architectural designer

June 1990 - June 1994, August 1996 - August 1997

- Participated on project teams to identify problems and develop design-based methods to meet client needs
- Helped clients to identify concerns related to organizational structure and develop design-based solutions
- Managed programming and space planning for projects ranging from 25,000-500,000 square feet

EDUCATION

- **Washington University, St. Louis, MO**
 - Brown School of Social Work
 - Master of Social Worker, May 1999
- **Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS**
 - Bachelor of Interior Architecture, May 1990
 - *Outstanding Graduating Senior and Student Service Award*