

Restorative Discipline

“Restorative discipline promotes values and principles that use inclusive, collaborative approaches for being in community. These approaches validate the experiences and needs of everyone within the community, particularly those who have marginalized, oppressed, or harmed. These approaches allow us to act and respond in ways that are healing rather than alienating or coercive.”

From the book, “The Little Book of Restorative Discipline”

Key Goals of Restorative Discipline

- ▣ To understand the harm and develop empathy for both the harmed and the harmer
- ▣ To listen and respond to the needs of the person harmed and the person who harmed
- ▣ To encourage accountability and responsibility through personal reflection within a collaborative planning process
- ▣ To reintegrate the harmer (and, if necessary, the harmed) into the community as valuable, contributing members
- ▣ To create caring climates to support healthy communities
- ▣ To change the system when it contributes to harm

Restorative Justice...

- 1) Focuses on harms and consequent needs (the victims', as well as the communities' and the offenders')
- 2) Addresses obligations resulting from those harms (the offenders', but also the communities' and the society's)
- 3) Uses inclusive, collaborative processes
- 4) Involves those with a legitimate stake in the situation (victims, offenders, community members, society)
- 5) Seeks to put right the wrongs

Restorative Discipline...

- 1) Acknowledges that relationships are central to building community
- 2) Builds systems that address misbehavior and harm in a way that strengthens relationships
- 3) Focuses on the harm done rather than only on rule-breaking
- 4) Gives voice to the person harmed
- 5) Engages in collaborative problem-solving
- 6) Empowers change and growth
- 7) Enhances responsibility

The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools: Teaching Responsibility, Creating Caring Climates (Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy H. Mullet)