



Restorative Justice/Practices

PTA Meeting
October 2, 2018

What is Restorative Justice?

An approach to building community, self-care, and conflict resolution. It's a social justice platform that allows students to:

- Actively engage and problem-solve physical, psychological, social and disciplinary issues that affect themselves and the community.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Work with those affected to restore and/or repair the members and community who were harmed as a result of those actions.

Timeline of Restorative Justice

1994
American Bar
Association
endorsed
victim-offender
mediation

2016
Restorative
Justice initiative
in MCPS

1970's
Alternative
approach to
the court
system

2008
grants offered
to develop
initiatives in
criminal law
settings

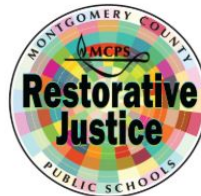
Traditional Discipline vs. Restorative Justice

A traditional discipline process asks...

- What rules were broken?
- Who broke them?
- How should we punish the offending student?

A restorative justice practice asks...

- What happened?
- Who was harmed?
- Who is responsible for repairing the harm?



Empowering the Student Voice
to Facilitate Student Success!



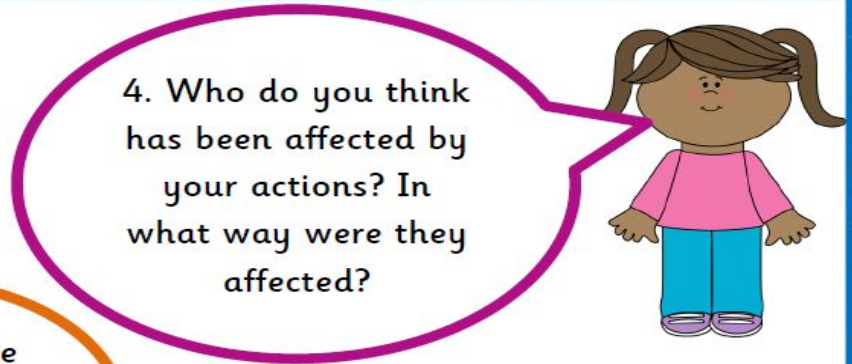
1. What happened?



2. What were you thinking about at the time?



3. What have your thoughts been since the incident?



4. Who do you think has been affected by your actions? In what way were they affected?

Restorative practice in school



5. What do you need to do now to make things right?

The MCPS Restorative Justice Project



The MCPS
Restorative Justice Project

Principles of Restorative Justice





Building Community: Strengthen relationships and build community by encouraging a safe and caring school.



Self Care: Reduce, prevent, and improve harmful behaviors.



Conflict Resolution: Increase accountability through identifying problems and solutions and restoring positive relationships.

Impact in Schools

- School Discipline
- **Attendance and Absenteeism**- 50% reduction in absenteeism and 64% decrease in tardiness (Baker 2009)
- School Climate
- Academic Outcomes



Restorative Justice/Practices at GHES

- Empathy Informed School
- Caring School Community (Morning Huddle and Closing Circle)
- Circles used when conflict arises
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)



Community Circles



A Tale of Two Schools

Carlos had a heated argument with his parents before leaving for school, so he's running late. Let's see the difference that restorative policies and practices can make.

Zero-tolerance education system

He is greeted by metal detectors and a police search.

His teacher scolds him in front of the class. Carlos talks back, and is given a detention.



Carlos arrives at school.

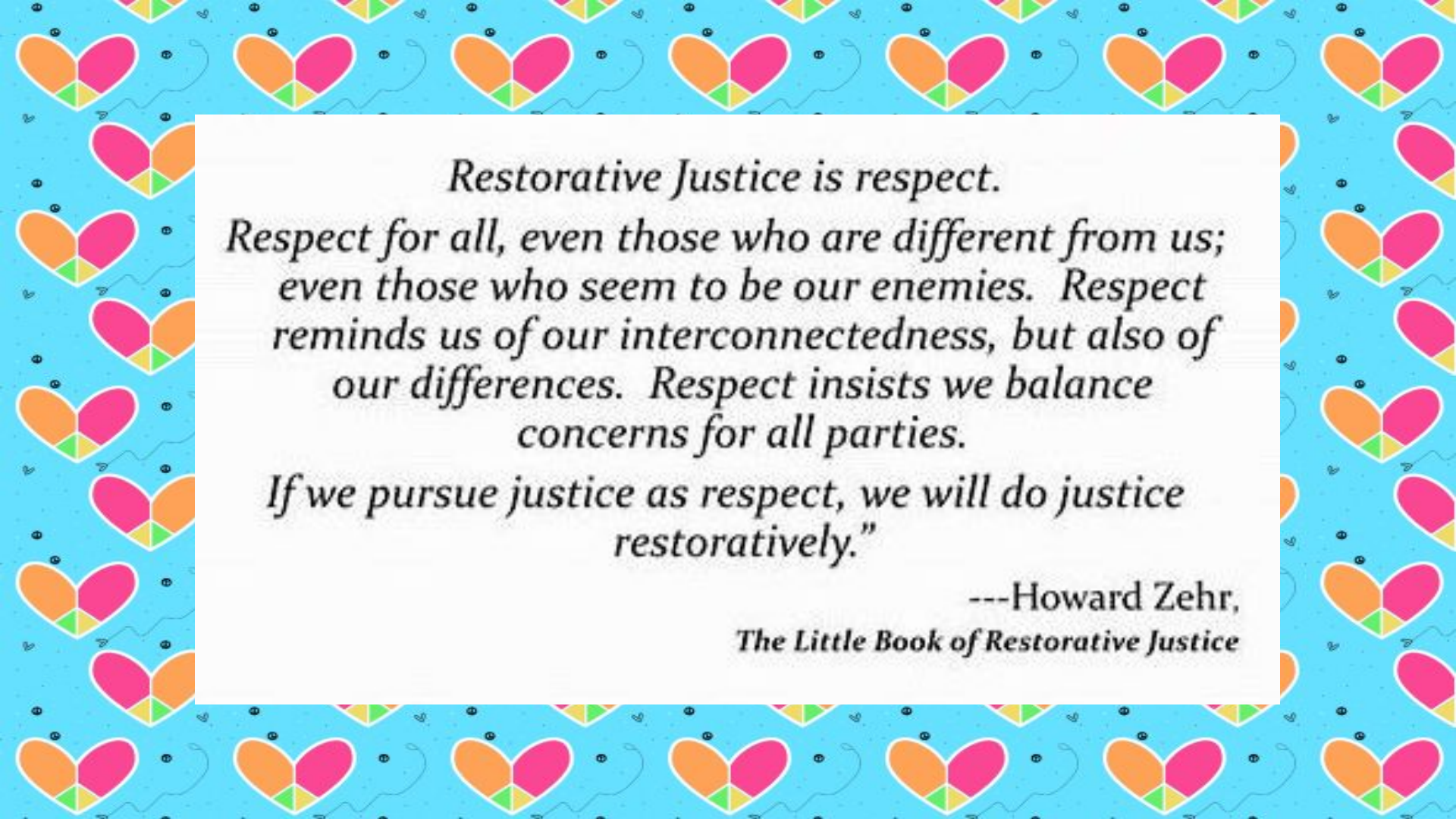


Carlos is late to first period class.

Restorative practices-based education system

Teachers and administrators welcome him and his fellow students as they enter.

His teacher waits until after class to speak with Carlos to learn more, and sets up a meeting with his school counselor.



*Restorative Justice is respect.
Respect for all, even those who are different from us;
even those who seem to be our enemies. Respect
reminds us of our interconnectedness, but also of
our differences. Respect insists we balance
concerns for all parties.
If we pursue justice as respect, we will do justice
restoratively.”*

*---Howard Zehr,
The Little Book of Restorative Justice*