

THE MEDIATOR!

Peer Mediation Newsletter

Office of School Climate and Safety
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What is Peer Mediation?

Peer Mediation is a confidential process for resolving conflicts. Students have the opportunity to talk through their conflicts with the help of trained student mediators. Peer Mediators do not take sides or place blame. Peer Mediators listen to each person and guide the participants to develop a win/win solution to the conflict. The process allows students to take an active role in resolving conflicts and determining solutions by initiating face-to-face conversations between students.



Through Peer Mediation, the participants can:

- ☐ Feel significant in school
- ☐ Identify and communicate their needs
- ☐ Explain their point of view
- ☐ Understand the other person's point of view
- ☐ Explore solutions
- ☐ Negotiate a win/win outcome
- ☐ End a problem without ending a relationship

When is Peer Mediation Necessary?

*Peer Mediation is necessary when students encounter a problem they are unable to solve without help. Peer Mediation gives students the opportunity confront a person you are in conflict with in a peaceful manner. **Mediation should not be used in cases of bullying.***



Who are the Mediators?

The Mediators are specifically chosen and trained to help other students find solutions to their conflicts. The students selected should be a reflection of the student population. A student needs to be interested in helping others and be willing to learn to become an effective Peer Mediator.

Principles of Peer Mediation

Peer Mediation is voluntary: Students choose to work with the mediators.

Mediators are fair: They listen to both disputants and let them take turns talking.

Mediator's help disputants talk and listen: In mediation, the disputants talk about feelings and what happened in the conflict.

Mediation is confidential: Mediators do not talk with others about what is said. Serious issues are brought to the program coordinator.

****Disputants come up with their own solutions:** Mediators do not tell the disputants what to do.

How does Peer Mediation work?

1. Introduction and Ground Rules-Peer Mediators and participants are introduced. Ground rules are presented

2. Storytelling-All participants tell their side without interruption. Mediators actively listen and help participants feel understood.

3. Identify Issues and Needs

Participants examine and define their own issues and needs.

4. Finding Solutions-Participants create their own solutions.

5. Agreement-Mediators write the participant's solutions into an agreement that each participant signs

Skills acquired by students

- Listen without taking sides
- Express feelings and needs
- Problem – solving
- Taking responsibility for their own actions
- Patience
- Acceptance

How are referrals made to Mediation?

- ☐ Self
- ☐ Students
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Community Members

Conflicts to be mediated

- Name-calling
- Relationships
- Rumors
- Disagreements
- Fights
- Misunderstandings
- And more.....

Benefits

- Staff spends less time settling disputes among students
- Improved academic performance
- Fewer suspensions
- Improved attendance

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

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