

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN COMMUNITIES

DEFINITION

Restorative Practices (RP):

A process where people who have caused harm acknowledge wrongdoing, take responsibility, repair harm to the extent possible to those whom they have caused harm, and are welcomed back into the community.

THE EFFECT

This fosters a culture that elevates dialogue, values relationships, reduces disciplinary problems and builds community.

EXAMPLE

Harm

Theft

Punitive

Removed from the Community/
"Suspended"

Restorative

- Return stolen items
- Sincere written/verbal apology
- Pay to replace items
- Make handmade gift/art piece



TRUTHS

RP is:

- Strengthens relationships
- Encourage community
- Focuses on harm done
- Gives voice to those affected
- Collaborative problem solving
- Supports change and growth
- Supports accountability

MYTHS

RP is not:

- Mediation
- An apology
- Community Service
- Mentoring
- Replacement for the legal system

REMEMBER

Punitive approaches foster environments of mistrust, reinforces intolerance and heightened emotional responses.