

"Participating in restorative justice circles not only changed the way I approach discipline ... I now know how important it is for students to not only learn from their mistakes but equally important for them to learn how their behaviour may have affected other people and the necessity of the opportunity to repair the harm."

~ SMCDSB principal



"Morning Circle promotes understanding of others and respect for all people, helps students to realize their potential, establishes an inclusive and respectful classroom environment, explores learning, creates curiosity and expands the learning process. As well, it helps us to build community by understanding that our differences are opportunities to make connections and to nourish ideas on a daily basis."

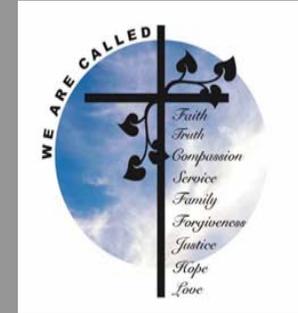
~ SMCDSB grade 8 teacher

"Far from being negative, we found it re-confirming – to be reminded that we are all connected and although our decisions may have far reaching potential for harm, students also, by extension have the potential to touch many with good."

~ SMCDSB parent and circle participant



For more information or help getting started, please visit the SMCDSB Restorative Practice site on First Class under Academic Services and Curriculum Support, or contact a member of the SMCDSB Restorative Practice Committee.



Restorative Practices at SMCDSB

Building Community and Repairing Harm

OUR WAY OF BEING WITH ONE ANOTHER

Restorative Practice is...

- rooted in our gospel values
- collaborative
- inclusive
- the belief in young people to take responsibility and learn from their choices
- a way to build a caring school community that enhances learning outcomes
- a way of working that can be used by principals, teachers, school counselors, and all school staff
- an approach, not a program
- shown to reduce problematic behaviour and the need for discipline such as suspensions
- flexible so it can be used in a wide variety of situations



Restorative Questions:

Instead of thinking in terms of what rules have been broken, who is responsible, and what the consequence should be, try asking...

What happened?

What were you thinking of at the time?

What have you thought about since?

Who has been affected by what you have done? In what ways?

What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Restorative Practice is used...

- to help in resolving conflicts throughout the school community and to provide an opportunity to repair harm
- to manage office referrals
- to provide an alternative to suspensions
- to support re-entry plans
- to give everyone a voice
- to reduce and prevent bullying and truancy

Restorative Practices help students become effective communicators, reflective thinkers, collaborative contributors, and caring responsible citizens

(Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations)

Catholic Virtues and Values

The process and goals of Restorative Practice are congruent with the SMCDSB Catholic Values of faith, truth, compassion, service, family, forgiveness, justice, hope, and love.

"I think morning circle is amazing because as a class we become a family, we unite as Catholics."
~ SMCDSB student

Participating in restorative circles allows students an opportunity to...

- develop communication skills
- engage in reflective and creative thinking and problem solving
- take responsibility for own actions and decisions
- collaborate as a member of a larger community
- become more informed, aware and compassionate as individuals