

Restorative Practices

Middle School Restorative Practices

Student Reflection: Middle School

The video explores two schools' implementation of Restorative Practices. Use the following questions to reflect on the information presented and to frame your own thoughts about Restorative Practices.

1. Patrick Burns, principal of MS 217, compares middle school to a roller coaster. He says, "This is the front car of the roller coaster! No seat belt, hands up, terrifying, and up and down and twist and turn at all times." Chart examples of each of the descriptors, and then discuss whether you think this is a good description of middle school.

Principal Burns's description	Your interpretation What does Mr. Burns mean by these words?	Your personal examples Support or refute!
This is the front car of the roller coaster!		
No seat belt		
Hands up		
Terrifying		
Up and down		
Twist and turn at all times		

2. Taeko Onishi, principal of Lyons Community School, tells us that Restorative Practices and Advisory help kids feel connected to adults in the school. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

3. In the video, various students tell us how the practice of Restorative Circles have affected them. One young woman says, "We're learning about each other but it kinda made it deeper," and Sean Carter says, "There's been more trust, equality and community," later adding, "and It opened my mind more." How do their statements make you feel about this practice? Why? What else did you hear students say about the Restorative Practices at the middle school level?

4. What do you notice about the different items used as talking pieces in the Advisory Circles? How does it help the conversations?

5. Wuta Onda, a teacher from Lions Community School, says that Restorative Practices "help build the human side" in school. What does that mean?

6. Priscilla Prutzman, Staff Developer at MS 217, says that Peer Mediation helps build self-esteem and that “student self-esteem goes sky high.” From what you observed in the video, how does Peer Mediation build “sky high self-esteem”? How would you feel if you were selected to be a peer mediator? How would you feel if you had a peer mediation process to help you work out conflicts in school? Explain your answer.

7. What did you notice about the students involved in the Peer Mediation process?

8. Taeko Onishi, principal of Lyons Community School, says, “We expect our young people to be amazing. Restorative Practices gives them the opportunity to be those things.” In what ways are you expected to be amazing? How are you supported in your journey to be amazing? From what you observed in the video, how might Restorative Practices give you the opportunity to be amazing?
