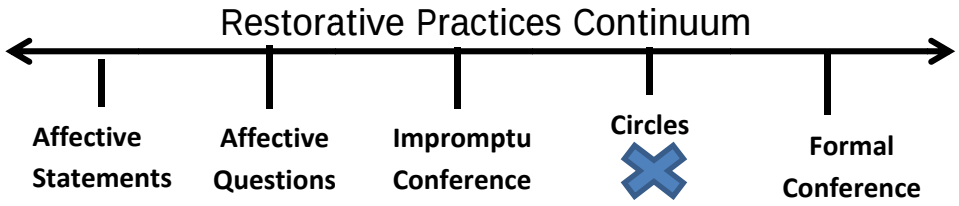


-Ted Wachtel, International Institute for Restorative Practices

Restorative Circles

As a symbol of community, circles are one of the most distinctive and flexible forms of restorative practices. Just sitting in a circle creates the feeling that a group of people is connected, and when the teacher sits among the students, it enhances the quality of their relationship.

--The Restorative Practices Handbook—

Circle Uses:

- Beginning of the day Check In
- End of the day Check Out
- Class Content
- Classroom Norms
- Problem Solving
- Behavior Problems
- Building a Sense of Belonging

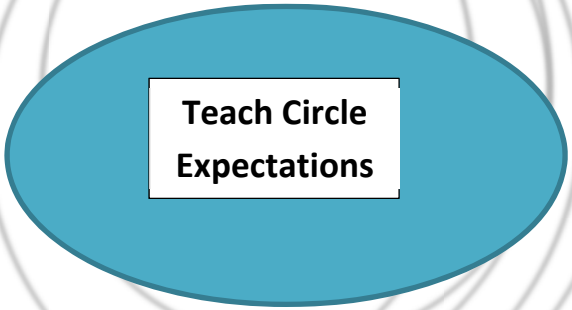
Talking Piece-an object that signifies that only the person holding the piece may talk.

Go-around-sit in a circle, have each participant give a response to the question or open ended sentence.

Circle Tips

- ✓ Set clear topics and goals for the outcome of the circle.
- ✓ Set a positive tone and students will follow your lead.
- ✓ In a kind and supportive way, help students stick to the conversation
- ✓ Set your circle up for success, ask a student ahead of time to start the go-around.

Always sit in the circle with students and participate



- Respect the talking piece
- Speak from the heart
- Listen with respect
- Remain in the circle
- Honor confidentiality

The more circles you run, the more comfortable you and your students will get, and the more success there will be when running Formal Conferences.

The more students get to know each other the stronger their connection to school

When people feel connected through mutual understanding and empathy, they are less likely to misbehave and the more likely to treat each other with respect.