

Restorative Approaches at Galway Elementary School



What is
**RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE** and
what does it
look like at
**SCHOOL AND
HOME?**

Galway Elementary School is committed to Restorative Practices, working alongside students and families to build relationships, repair harm, and support every child's growth.



Restorative Practices at Galway Elementary School



What are Restorative Approaches?

Restorative Approaches are a mindset and philosophy that guide how we build relationships, support positive behavior, and strengthen our school community. The focus is on education, learning from mistakes, identifying and addressing the root causes of the behavior, driving deep-level change, repairing relationships, and restoring students and staff to the environment.

Why Restorative Justice?

Maryland House Bill 725 requires all Maryland Public schools to implement and continuously monitor restorative approaches to student discipline. Restorative Approaches take a preventative and proactive approach to creating school communities that feel safe, caring, and affirming.

Core values

Community building:

Building caring communities and healthy relationships based on mutual trust, respect, and responsibility.

Self-Care:

Learning to recognize and regulate our emotions so that we don't cause harm to ourselves or others.

Conflict Resolution:

Recognizing when our words or actions have harmed others and taking steps to repair that harm.

Why Restorative Practices Matter?

Restorative Approaches help create a school environment that is:

- Safe, caring, and inclusive
- Focused on respect and responsibility
- Supportive of social-emotional learning

Maryland public schools implement restorative approaches to student discipline as a proactive way to strengthen school communities.

Restorative Practices at School

- Community-building circles
- Guided conversations to resolve conflict
- Reflection, learning, and relationship repair

Bridge to Home

Restorative practices can be used at home in everyday moments, such as family dinners, car rides, or walks.

Families can:

- Listen and talk openly
- Help children name their emotions
- Focus on behaviors, not labels
- Ask restorative questions:
 - What happened?
 - Who was affected?
 - How can we repair the harm?

Learn More:

- Visit the [MCPS Restorative Justice Page](#)
- See [RJ community circles](#) discussed and in action.
- Check out the [Caregiver Canvas Page](#)

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