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# RESTORATIVE PRACTICES & JUSTICE

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Mr. Tuths  
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Fall & Spring 2020 - 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Period

Bishop Baker  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Restorative Practices is a social science dealing with community and relationship building and repairing when harm is done. Restorative Justice is a philosophy, an ethos, and a way of being informed by our core values, which also act as the foundation for our language, practices, and processes. It explicitly embraces social justice as a cause and creates equitable spaces that are respectful, caring, trusting, and safe for everyone. In a Restorative space, the human dignity and worth of all is fully recognized and utilized.

In this elective course, students will be learning about Restorative Practices and Justice as well as conducting Youth Participatory Action Research throughout the year. Students will gain foundational theoretical and historical knowledge of Restorative Practices and learn and utilize practical strategies such as Affective Questioning and Circle Keeping. Students will then act as Restorative leaders in their school community as they carry the knowledge and skills they learn throughout the building.

**PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES:** There are no prerequisites for this course.

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of this course, you will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of RJ's origins and uses to participate actively as a lifelong member of the RJ community.
- Use Restorative language and practices to form and maintain healthy relationships and mediate conflict between peers and colleagues.
- Use skills in Restorative Practices and as a Circle Keeper to build community and relationships.
- Use skills in Restorative Justice and Circle Keeping to repair harm and reintegrate those who have harmed into the community.
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data to measure the impact of purposeful initiatives and adjust future practices accordingly.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:**

- All texts and resources will be provided by the teachers. We will be pulling from the following texts, as well as others:
  - [\*The Gifts of Imperfection\*](#)
  - [\*The New Jim Crow\*](#)
  - [\*How to be an Antiracist\*](#)
  - [\*Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide\*](#)

**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY:** We will follow the established school expectations. Discussion and dialogue play an important role in this class, so we need you to be present at our course meetings.

**COMMUNICATION:** Communication is going to be so important in this course. We are very responsive to email, but we will also have a Google Classroom page and other means of communicating that we will work out together once class begins.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you feel that you need accommodations for anything we do in class, we are always willing to work with you. If you ever feel that our accommodations are not sufficient, please do not hesitate to let us know.

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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<b>Summative (70%)</b>	<b>Formative (30%)</b>
YPAR Proposal	Restorative Journal
Circle Discussions	Quick Quizzes
	Circle Discussions

Most of your grades will come out of the following handful of continuous assignments

**Restorative Journal**.....

Throughout the school year, you will maintain a Restorative Journal with consistent daily journal entries on what we cover in class.

**YPAR Proposal**.....

Beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Fall semester and continuing into the Spring, you will be responsible for maintaining your action research proposals and findings. There will additionally be checkpoint presentations as you work through your proposals. This will be a major part of your grade as you demonstrate how you will turn your knowledge and experience into action.

**Quick Quizzes** .....

You will sometimes have Quick Quizzes to assess what adjustments we need to make to our teaching as we progress through the year. These will be knowledge-based quizzes.

**Circle Discussions** .....

We will spend a lot of our time getting to know one another, and then once we've created a community of trust, examining and discussions pertinent issues related to our school and our society. Much of this dialogue will happen in Circle discussions and these will play an essential role in our class.

**ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION:** All assignments should be submitted through Google Classroom.

**LATE WORK:** If you are ever unhappy with a grade you receive, please let us know and we can work out a way for you to re-rake that quiz or re-do that assignment. If you demonstrate greater proficiency the second or third time around, your new and improved grade will replace your original.