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Taylor Road Middle School
Seventh/Eighth Grade Peer Mediation
Course Description

The Peer Mediation class is a nine-week course that focuses on helping students recognize and appreciate the diversity within themselves and others. This focus will also help facilitate a more positive school climate. Through our studies, students are empowered with skills to respond constructively to conflict: in the school environment, in their home environment, as well as in their community at large.

Peer Mediation allows students to discover that conflict is normal and healthy and that our responses must be guided so that we can effectively handle conflict. With proper training, students learn that we all have a variety of normal responses to conflict, but some responses are more effective than others. Our purpose is to show students how to approach mediation in a manner, in which all parties involved, arrive and leave with their dignity intact.

Students have numerous opportunities to develop effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills, incorporate strategic methods of problem-solving, to connect well with others and work through conflict in a meaningful way.

As students develop a repertoire of constructive alternatives for handling their daily problems, students benefit by having more personal control over the choices they make in their encounters with peers, as well as adults.

The concept of personal and social development is essential in the lives of today's youth more than ever before. This course will enhance their natural ability to express themselves effectively, authentically, and appropriately.

Course of Study:

- Module 1: Welcome and Introductions
- Module 2: Understanding Conflict
- Module 3: The Peer Mediation Process
- Module 4: Skill Set – Listening
- Module 5: Skill Set – Finding Interests
- Module 6: Skill Set – “I” Messages
- Module 7: Skill Set – Neutrality
- Module 8: Skill Set – Culture & Identity Awareness
- Module 9: Skill Set -- Emotions in Conflict
- Module 10: Skill Set – Dealing with Difficult Situations
- Module 11: Skill Set – Brainstorming & Decision Making
- Module 12: Character Education/Dealing with Bullies

Resources:

While there is no textbook required for Peer Mediation, students will receive digital documents (teacher provided) and activities that are derived from the internet and the teacher's digital manual. Students should arrive with charged laptops each day.

Discipline:

To ensure the proper learning environment in the classroom, all students are expected to demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning. If discipline problems arise, parents will be contacted. All discipline originates between teacher and student. If our mutual goals are not achieved with a simple request, the discipline will require reaching out to parents by e-mail, phone, or TEAMS for parental support. TRMS will follow/enforce all guidelines set forth by the 2021-2022 FCS Code of Conduct.

Recovery on Assignments/Assessments:

All students will have one (1) opportunity each nine weeks to redo/retake one (1) major assignment/assessment.

- Eligibility for a redo/retake is for students who receive a 79 or below on a specific major assignment/assessment.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a redo/retake no higher than 79.
- Student redo/retakes must be completed before the next major assignment/assessment is given or five school days before the end of a marking period if there is not another major assignment/assessment given (exceptions can be made for students who have excused absences during this five-day window).

Make-up Work:

Students should make every effort to complete any missing work in a timely manner. Students must complete any make-up work at least ten (10) school days prior to the end of the grading period. The student and/or parent/guardian must assume the responsibility for contacting the teacher about any missing work.

Grading:

Fulton County Grading Scale:

Major Assessments 50%

Minor Assessments 50%

90 and > A

80-89 B

70-79+ C

Anything below 70 is an F

Parent-Communication: Parents can communicate via e-mail or by phone. Recovery policy: Fulton County School Board Recovery Policy involves opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a failing cumulative average. The student must be current on all work and must demonstrate a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be related directly to the objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grade. To be eligible for recovery, a student must have no missing assignments and have not been excessively absent. The student is responsible for starting this process.