

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM AT HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL

What is the Restorative Justice Program?

The purpose of the Restorative Justice Program is the improvement of citizenship in an individual student resulting in the enhancement of the overall quality of life at Hanover High School. The Restorative Justice Program is designed to help students who have violated the Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) take responsibility for their actions, recognize that their conduct affected others, make amends, and restore the student's relationship with affected parties. To participate in Restorative Justice, the student must first accept responsibility for his/her actions. The consequences will be determined by consensus during the Conference and recorded in a contract, which is signed by all parties. If the student does not fulfill the terms of this contract he or she will receive the base consequences.

There are four key principles of the Restorative Justice Program:

- **Respect:** The Restorative Justice Coordinator facilitates a respectful, collaborative, and safe process for all involved.
- **Responsibility:** The student accepts responsibility for his/her action and accountability for the effect it had on others.
- **Restoration:** The student undertakes to make amends for his/her ethical breach and restore the relationships and systems affected by his/her action.
- **Reintegration:** The Program provides an opportunity for an errant student to discard the "offender" label and be fully accepted back into the school community.

The Restorative Justice Conference:

The Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator is responsible for organizing the RJ Conference. The RJ Coordinator confers with those affected, including the student, the Dean of Students, and supporters of those who have been affected to determine who should be invited to attend the Conference. Those invited are not obligated to participate. If an individual chooses to participate, s/he is invited to meet with the RJ Coordinator prior to the Conference. During the Conference the student who violated the AIP has the opportunity to acknowledge the impact of his/her actions and make amends. Those affected have the opportunity to have the harm or loss acknowledged. The RJ Coordinator facilitates a respectful and collaborative process that helps the student identify actions s/he can take to repair the harm done. At any point, the student may elect to end the Conference and withdraw from the RJ process. During the Conference, the participating parties will generate and sign a written contract. At the very least, it will include the name of the student, the specifics of his or her violation, the time and place of the Conference, the names of the Conference participants, and a plan that will assist the student to realize the four objectives of Restorative Justice: respect, responsibility, restoration, and reintegration. The consequences will be determined by consensus during the Conference and recorded in a contract, which is signed and dated by all parties, and a copy is given to the student. Additional copies of the signed and dated contract are retained in the Dean's files as well as the Coordinator's files. The RJ Coordinator will oversee the fulfillment of the contract; if the student does not fulfill the contract, he or she will be assigned the base consequences.