



Family Engagement

Urbana School District #116

Strengthening The Home School Partnership

What are Restorative Practices?

Urbana School District #116 implements Restorative Practices as part of our social-emotional supports at Urbana Middle School and Urbana High School. The objective of Restorative practices is help improve the school climate and break the cycle of repeating conflict and ongoing harm. When conflicts arise, conversations are facilitated in order to repair relationships by working to identify the root causes instead of distributing blame. On a regular basis, students participate in classroom circles, classroom-based climate discussions, and community-building activities practice social skills such as listening, empathy, and clear communication with peers.

How Can Parents Help?

- Focus on non-punitive solutions to a problem if your child has caused harm. Punishments may cause a child to build resentment. Rewards may hinder a child from learning how to be internally motivated.
- When conflicts arise, have a discussion to repair the relationship by identifying the root causes of the behavior instead of distributing blame.
- Help your child focus on how they have harmed others rather than the rule they have broken.
- Ask your child how they may “make things right” or “repair the harm they caused.”
- Encourage your child to find creative ways to restore the relationships they have harmed.
- Have your child take direct responsibility for their actions through apologies, financial restitution, community service, etc.
- Make sure the consequences of wrongdoing are in direct correlation with the misbehavior and to those people who were directly harmed.

