



LORAIN CITY SCHOOLS

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Restorative Approach to Discipline Resulting from Fights *District Implements Restorative Saturdays*

Lorain, Ohio (September 6, 2018) –As the district moves forward in its continuous effort to change the culture within Lorain High School, it would like to take a moment to detail the administrative team’s strategy for creating the learning environment necessary to proactively address behavior issues of years past.

Per the student code of conduct handbook, fighting is a misbehavior suspendable up to 10 days, may result in expulsion and may result in charges being pressed.

Fights within the high school are indicative of a larger problem: A relatively small number of scholars have a difficult time managing conflict and controlling their anger.

As a district, we have devised a strategy to help those scholars work through these challenges by utilizing a restorative approach. Following an immediate issuance of a consequence for negative behavior, scholars will enter a restorative process designed to address the root cause of misbehavior. This process will prevent scholars, who previously engaged in conflict, from returning to the building and engaging in conflict again because nothing was done to address the conflict’s root cause.

During this process, impacted scholars will:

1. Complete a restorative reflection assignment
2. Meet with a guidance counselor to re-establish academic goals and set a path to graduation
3. Meet with a social worker to participate in “Thinking for a Change” to address his or her social and/or emotional needs
4. Attend a restorative conference with a Dean/Director
5. Participate in a restorative circle with those who were impacted by the conflict to create a clear understanding of responsibility and participate in a touch point with a graduation guardian or close adult within the building.

As reactive measures are implemented, the district will also take a proactive stance to de-normalize conflict within its high school through a *Whole School Strategy*. Over the next week, academy leadership will visit every classroom, within the high school, to engage scholars in dialogue. These conversations will reiterate the district’s zero-tolerance stance on conflict; detail consequences and create a clear understanding of the restorative process; present ways to resolve conflict appropriately and continue building a strong sense of community through conversation and teacher reinforcement.

In lieu of out of school suspensions, and in an effort to maximize in-class learning, the district will implement *Opportunity/Restorative Saturdays* beginning September 15th. Facilitated by building administrators, these two-hour sessions will provide scholars the opportunity to understand the expectations that have been set, and how to follow them. If disciplined scholars choose not to attend, they will then be issued an out of school suspension.

“We want to give scholars every opportunity,” Executive Director Daniel Garvey said. “But a scholar who does not take advantage of the opportunity and chooses to continuously behave in a way that is unacceptable will be allowed to make an example of him or herself. Meaning my desire to help that student does not supersede the well-being of staff and every scholar in this building.”