

Community Circles

An essential part of Restorative Practices and building positive relationships.

Why spend the time?

- Develop meaningful relationships
- Set a positive tone for the day and year- creates unity
- Create a safe, trusting place for students- builds empathy
- Promote social, emotional, and academic learning
- Build a strong foundation that will enable problem solving and cooperation when needed
- Reduction of issues overall, you'll get the time back and more!



- Use a unique greeting or song
- Vary your talking piece
- Choose interesting prompt
- Include movement or meditation
- Creative closing using high fives, cheers, or songs
- Encourage student leadership



What does it look like?

1. Sit in a circle & use a talking piece
This is critical, as it creates a sense of equality and respect.
2. Greeting
All students are greeted by name
3. Sharing
Students can share from a prompt or their own thoughts. Always permit students to pass.
4. News and Updates
Grounds class for the day and share any schedule changes
5. Class Successes and Challenges
Focused on class goals; celebrating the great things and giving feedback for the struggles; can be academic or behavioral. Virtues Language helps provide positive language for discussion.
6. Closure
Positive transition into the academic day

*Numbers 2 & 3 can be combined.



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[Educator resources on the Virtues Project](#)



[Edutopia article about morning meeting](#)



[Example 3rd grade Community Circle](#)



[BCPS TV clip NES Restorative Practices](#)