



Social Responsibility at Royal Oak Middle School

Earlier this year, we asked our students what they wanted our new school community to Look like, Sound like, and Feel like, as a way to develop pride and ownership in their actions at middle school.

Here's what they agreed Royal Oak should:

LOOK LIKE

- A clean building throughout with no graffiti or vandalism
- People respecting others and all the equipment in the school
- A friendly place to be where learning is fun
- A bully-free school
- Students demonstrating safe behaviour inside and outside

SOUND LIKE

- A calm peaceful place to be with positive language, no swearing, quiet in the hallways
- Students working together, cooperatively helping each other
- A cheerful environment where people compliment each other
- People listening to others

FEEL LIKE

- A safe secure place to learn
- A comfortable learning environment where everyone is treated respectfully and treated as an individual
- Everyone is trying their best
- A welcoming, caring place to be each day
- Everyone is proud with a positive school spirit

To make this happen, we are all going to:

- Come to school each day with a positive attitude
- Work together and follow the above statements
- Be responsible and respectful students in our new school
- Be kind and cooperative with everyone in our school
- Keep our community clean and always recycle
- Make less noise in hallways
- Get involved with school activities, clubs, or teams
- Take responsibility for our actions at school and in the community

Using the following Restorative Posters, the students can express themselves and take responsibility for their behaviours.



Restorative Process Making It Right

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking/feeling at the time?
3. What are you thinking/feeling now?
4. Who has been affected by what you have done?
In what ways?
5. What do you need? (see Basic Needs Circle)
6. What are you going to do to make things right?
7. Why is this a better plan?

Basic Needs Circle *



* Glasser, W. (1988) *Choice Theory*



The "I" Message Formula

1. I feel _____
(name the feeling).
2. When _____
(describe the situation or behaviour).
3. I need or I wish _____
(state what you need to make things better).

Conflict Resolution - Talking it Out

When a problem needs to be solved

Steps

1. Agree to the ground rules of discussion.
2. Use "I" message to say what happened.
3. The second person re-states the problem for the first person.
4. Switch roles. Repeat 2 and 3.
5. Suggest possible solutions.
6. Develop an agreement that is specific, balanced and realistic.

Gibbs, J. (2001) *Discovering Gifts in Middle School Tribes*