

Restitution Update

**‘Real Restitution’ is the creation of conditions for a person to fix their mistakes and return to a group strengthened.** (Gossen 1998) Restitution and its practice are based on the premise that each person has the basic five needs of belonging, power, fun, freedom and survival. Student behaviors, or misbehaviors, are an attempt to meet or restore the balance of these needs in their own way. During ‘Restitution’ the focus is more on the person and his/her needs, rather than on the act itself. It has made a shift in philosophy and thinking about how school discipline is handled. The process of Restitution is about managing of behaviors with internal motivation instead of modifying behaviors through external forces.



During this year of implementation, the school will be focusing on a few key components of Restitution to see its vision become reality. Firstly, the school will continue its emphasis on the six ‘core beliefs’ developed by students two years ago. These beliefs are used as the key components of the ‘social contract’ that each class has developed in guiding their actions and behaviors. The vision is to have students act on these beliefs as they become a person of great character.

Secondly, an emphasis will be placed on having all staff and school be ‘third level’ thinkers. Students should not be ‘scared’ or coerced into choosing their actions, which is a first level of thinking. The second level thinker is the person who acts in response to external incentives or consequences. The actions based only on the extrinsic reward or consequence is strongly discouraged in the practice of Restitution. When students (and adults) become responsible and respectful individuals based on their own intrinsic beliefs and motivators, they have reached the level three phase of moral thinking. The development of ‘self-discipline’ is greatly encouraged as we reach this third level of thinking.

Our Guiding School Beliefs

Respect Responsibility Safety Doing Your Best Honesty Caring & Cooperation	Respect Responsabilité Sécurité Faire Notre Mieux Honnête Bienveillance & Coopération
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