

# PEER MEDIATION

## *What, Who, How, Why?*



### **What is Peer Mediation?**

Peer Mediation is a positive process in which student mediators help their peers solve problems before adults get involved. This does not mean that they are in trouble, but is an opportunity for all students involved to work on problem solving skills. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade can sign up for Peer Mediation. Students may sign up for help with friendship, playground, classroom, and many other problems. Peer Mediation is a chance for students to sit face to face and talk, uninterrupted, so each person is heard. The students and mediators work together to find a peaceful solution.

### **Who is a Student Mediator?**

A student mediator is a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader who has been trained to conduct mediations. The student mediators ensure the mediation session is helpful and fair. They listen to each disputant's side of the story and guide the disputants to a mutual resolution.

### **How does a Peer Mediation Work?**

Mediations take place in private, but there is always a teacher supervising. Mediators work in pairs of two so there are always two peer mediators and two disputants. First, the disputants are informed of the rules: no interrupting, no name-calling or put downs, be as honest as possible, agree to solve the problem, everything said is confidential. Next, mediators ask each disputant to tell their side of the story. Then the problem is defined, and solutions are created. When an agreement is reached, it is written and signed.

### **Why does Jackson Elementary use Peer Mediation?**

There are many reasons why peer mediation is helpful. Here are a few...

1. Conflicts that do not get resolved often result in hurt feelings, which could cause friendship problems;
2. Students learn to choose a peaceful, responsible way to solve their own problems;
3. Students develop mutual respect and clear communication;
4. It is a developmentally appropriate option students can take before turning to an adult to help solve a problem.
5. Peer Mediation helps make Jackson School a more positive place to learn and grow.

### **Specifically, peer mediation:**

- Empowers students with the skills and strategies for dealing with conflict;
- Develops communication and decision-making tools that influence choices in the future;
- Helps students gain perspective and understanding of themselves, others, and their issues;
- Improves school climate by building relationships;
- Builds a strong sense of cooperation within the school community in order to address disputes that interfere with learning!

If you have any questions about the Jackson Peer Mediation Program, contact Mrs. Wiesner, School Counselor. #920-663-9433 or [wiesnera@mpsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:wiesnera@mpsd.k12.wi.us)