

# AZUSA USD

*Commitment to Restorative School Climates*



ONGOING WORK WITH WESTERN  
JUSTICE CENTER – WEEKLY  
SUPPORT AT EVERY SCHOOL SITE  
WITH CIRCLE PRACTICE, PEER  
MEDIATION

Restorative Practices  
Professional  
Development for all  
elementary teachers on  
January 7th

District Wide  
Community  
Circle Days

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES  
AND IMPLICIT BIAS  
TRAINING AT NOV/DEC  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
LEADERS MEETINGS

ABC'S OF CONFLICT TRAINING  
LAST JUNE, 60 AUSD STAFF  
PARTICIPATED

**Peer Mediation  
programs at every  
AUSD school site**

Azusa's Peer  
Mediation  
Training Day in  
November, 140  
students trained

**Community School presentations for  
all certificated staff, classified staff,  
and administrators**

AUSD  
supporting  
Pasadena with  
Community  
Healing Circles  
after the fire

Half-day  
Restorative  
Practices Classified  
Staff training in  
September, 250  
people attended

**Circle Practice  
happening at all schools  
in classrooms, staff  
meetings, parent  
meetings**


Small group  
trainings led by  
Western Justice  
Center for admin  
and security at  
GMS

Peer Mediation  
Invitational at  
the California  
Endowment this  
month taking  
142 students  
and 30 staff

Three days of PBIS  
training for principals  
and Community  
Schools program  
specialists

# Community Circles





**Peer mediation** is when you talk out a conflict with a calm conversation to come to an agreement between two students.

**Hodge Peer Mediation Norms:**

1. Be kind and fair
2. Show respect to each other, no interrupting
3. Work together to come to an agreement



# PEER MEDIATION

# PROFESSIONAL

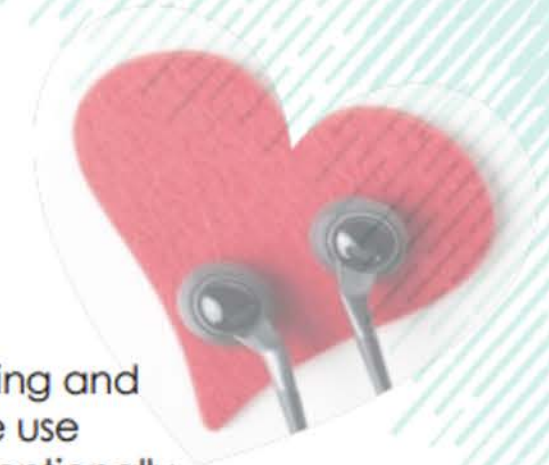


# DEVELOPMENT

# Compassionate Listening



**POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS/RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**  
WE ARE SAFE, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, RESILIENT, & RESTORATIVE



## Compassionate Listening Tips For Adults



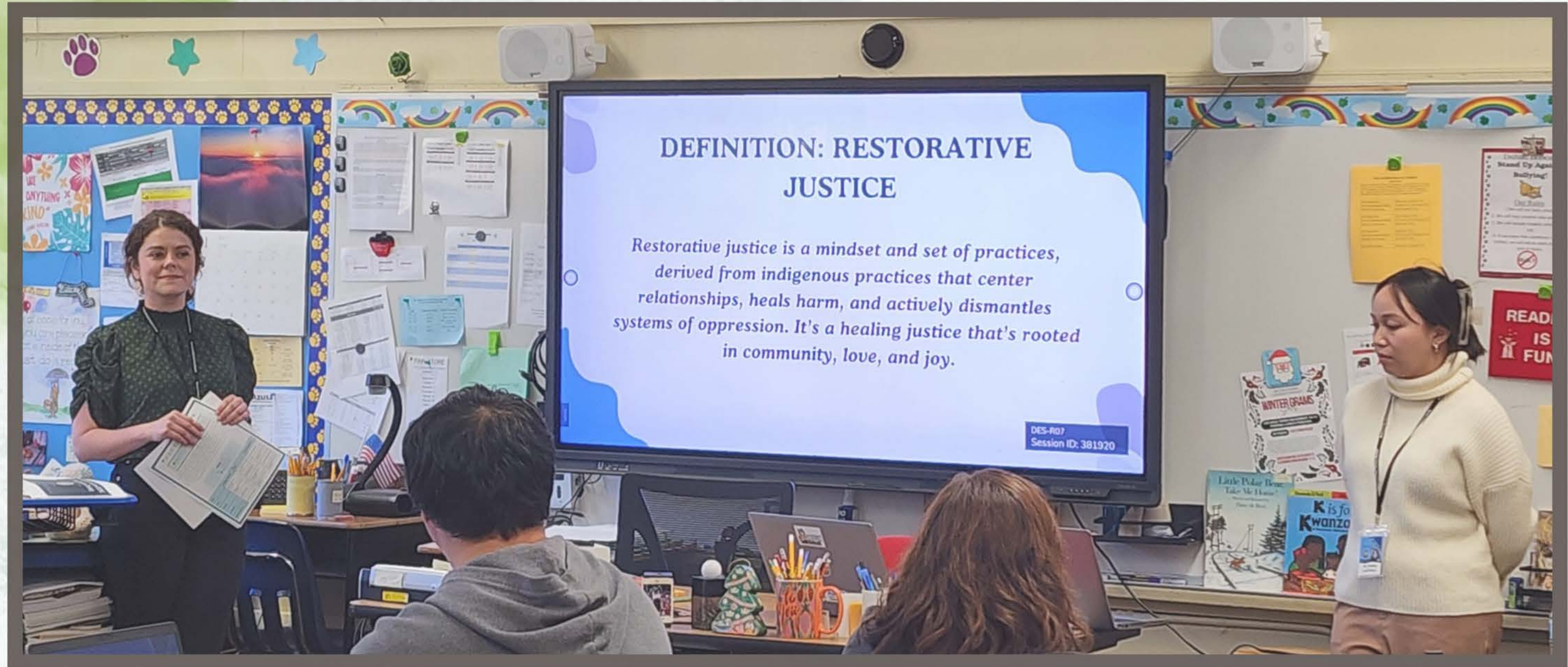
Listening with empathy and compassion is a foundational skill essential for building and maintaining strong relationships rooted in healthy communication. When we use compassionate listening, we are authentically conveying a sense of care and intentionally seeking to understand hearts and minds as we facilitate courageous conversations.

Stop, Look, Listen	Restate	Ask Questions	Validate & Connect
Show adults you are truly listening from the heart. Set aside any distractions, assumptions and/or judgments to create space for meaningful dialogue.	Use paraphrasing to restate and reflect what was said by the adult/s. This shows what you as the listener understand, and that you are giving your undivided attention.	Ask clarifying questions to gain more information and better understand the perspectives, feelings, thoughts, and ideas of adults.	Reflect and validate what you have heard by summarizing what the adult/s has said using their own words and ideas of their experiences.
<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sit up</li> <li>• Listen with your eyes, ears, &amp; heart</li> <li>• Keep your eyes on the person speaking</li> <li>• Nod your head to show you are attentive</li> <li>• Bring awareness to your body language</li> </ul>	<p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I see you're frustrated. It's clear you care about....</li> <li>• I'm understanding that...</li> <li>• What I hear you saying ...</li> <li>• I noticed that ...</li> <li>• Some strengths you mentioned were...</li> <li>• Some next steps you mentioned were...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you help me understand a little more about ...</li> <li>• What are some strengths/glows?</li> <li>• When does the behavior of concern occur ?</li> <li>• What are some challenges/grows?</li> <li>• What supports are currently in place?</li> <li>• What are your ideas for next steps?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you for meeting with me to discuss ...</li> <li>• You are clearly open to ...</li> <li>• I can see you are passionate about ...</li> <li>• Yes, you are right. We will explore additional strategies to connect to ...</li> <li>• Great job with...might we consider...</li> </ul>

# Stronger Adult- Student Connections



# Shift in Perspective







# Student Voice

A fourth-grade student shared why community circles is important in bridging understanding among peers, “Because everybody has different personalities and maybe everybody can know about people now. Maybe people don't know about other people. So maybe they get to know about other new people.”





# Student Voice

“I grew up all the way up to 11th grade feeling like I was disconnected from my culture entirely. However, once I finally had those types of circles, once I finally saw that I had a community around me that actually shared the same themes, the same experiences that I did, I felt like I finally connected with my community at once. Participating in circles will definitely help in terms of the intergenerational trauma as well. If we're able to make this district wide from PreK all the way to 12th grade, that will definitely help them form that community, form that bond in this and just overall just help the way it is in our community.” –12th grade student reflecting on the impact of Community Circles Practice



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Hello,

My name is **Valerie**, and I'm a **senior at Azusa High School and the Peer Mediation President**. I first got involved with peer mediation as a freshman, hoping to do more than just be in student government—**I wanted to help students in a real way.**

**Learning about peer mediation with WJC let me do exactly that.**

It taught me not just how to solve problems, but how to really understand the people behind them. **It helped me see things I would have missed if I'd just looked at things on the surface.** This led me to join my school's Student Union, where upperclassmen like me get to mentor freshmen and help them feel seen and supported from the start.



THANK YOU

