

# Restorative Justice at Candlewood Elementary



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a mindset and philosophy toward school climate and relationship building within our school system. It is a social justice platform that allows students to: build strong relationships to feel a sense of connectedness and belonging within a community, actively engage and problem-solve various issues that affect their lives and the community at large and take accountability for their actions and work with those affected to restore the community and members who were harmed as a result of those actions.

### Why Restorative Justice?

Maryland House Bill 725 requires all Maryland Public schools to implement and continuously monitor restorative approaches to student discipline. Restorative Approaches take a preventative and proactive approach to creating school communities that feel safe, caring and affirming.

What are the core values of Restorative Justice?

**Building Community:** Strengthen relationships and build community by encouraging a safe and caring school climate.

**Self-Care:** Reduce, prevent, and improve harmful behaviors.

**Conflict Resolution:** Increase accountability through identifying problems and solutions and restoring positive relationships.

## Important Contacts

**Anna Hetrick - School Counselor and Restorative Justice Coach**

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See RJ in Action



Join the RJ Parent Canvas



Visit the RJ Website



## Bridge to Home: What does RJ look like at home?

**Listening.** Family dinners, car rides and neighborhood walks can all be opportunities to talk, listen, and build relationships within the family through shared interests.

As a trusted adult, you can:

Support with acknowledging and accurately identifying emotions

Support identifying problems and working together to develop solutions

Being reflective rather than reactive:

- Focus on behaviors, not individuals.
- Ask questions: What happened? What were you thinking or feeling at the time? Who was affected or harmed? How can the harm be repaired?