



Restitution: ***Creative Discipline at*** ***South View Middle School***

What is Restitution?

Restitution is a means of creative discipline whereby conditions are created for a person to fix their mistakes and return to the group strengthened. Restitution is not a means of punishment, but rather a safe way for kids to make mistakes, take responsibility for their actions, and determine a way to repair the situation. The ultimate goal is for students to learn how to manage their own behavior.

Why do we use Restitution?

At South View we believe all students want to be good people, but we also understand that everyone makes mistakes. The philosophy of restitution allows us to help students learn from these mistakes and become the people they really want to be.

Who should use Restitution?

All staff members at South View strive to have conversations with students using the language of restitution. Our hope is that, as parents, you will begin having these types of conversations with your children at home as well. This will reinforce our ultimate goal of teaching students to manage their own behavior.

As a parent, how can I use Restitution?

Keep in mind, as a parent you are likely using restitution techniques at home already. However, by learning and speaking the language of restitution at home, you will be reinforcing what your children are learning here at school.

1. Develop a picture of the ideal (not perfect) parent you want to be. Students have already created pictures of who they want to be. After doing this, you may be better able to encourage and guide them to strive for this goal. (i.e. You are trying to be the best parent you can be and their job is to be the best child they can be. There will be bumps in the road.)
2. Be generous with yourself. Say and believe “It’s okay when I make a mistake. Next time I will do better.” This may help you to remember that mistakes will happen for your children and it is also okay. Your job is to help guide them toward better decision making.
3. Ask questions instead of lecturing. Ask about family beliefs:
 - A. What kind of family do we want to have?
 - B. What does a team look like?
 - C. How do we balance privacy and safety?
 - D. How can we all get what we need in this situation?
 - E. What kind of brother/sister/grandchild, etc. do you want to be?
 - F. Do you want to learn to keep going when the going gets rough?

For more information on Restitution, visit South View’s website (www.edina.k12.mn.us/southview)