

Peer Mediation is an alternative approach to settling disputes between students. Introduced in the United States in the 1970's, peer mediation has been rapidly growing in the mainstream schools across the country.

Conflict is a normal, natural, and healthy part of life.

Peer Mediation is a process where students involved in a disagreement are given the opportunity to work together to solve their differences.

The problem is not that conflict exists; the problem is how the conflict is resolved.

Peer Mediators are students trained to facilitate the mediation process. They use mediation skills to guide the mediation process and help their peers settle the differences in a respectful and constructive manner.



BARRE TOWN SCHOOL



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Rob Raynsford, School Counselor, K-4
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**Peer
Mediation
Program**

Peer Mediators...

- Listen Carefully
- Don't judge
- Don't take sides
- Keep everything confidential
- Ask good questions
- Help students listen to each other
- Help students understand each other's point of view
- Help both students decide what they want to do to make things better.
- Help students solve their own problem
- Don't make decisions for other students
- Don't boss or "police" other students

Students Learn and Practice...

- Problem solving strategies
- Constructive and respectful communication technique
- Ways to create lasting solutions
- Non-judgmental language
- How to recognize and describe emotions

What are Other Benefits of Peer Mediation?

- Provides a safe environment to express anger and frustration
- Promote a safe and cooperative school climate in which to grow and learn.
- Fewer disruptions in class.
- Fewer trips to the behavioral specialist, school counselor or principal
- Reduces destructive conflicts, bullying and physical aggression

How the Program Works...

- The peer mediation program will be available for all students in grades 4, 5, and 6.
- Mediation sessions are scheduled during recess. Two peer mediators will be assigned for each session. Mediation sessions will be held in the Mediation Center.
- Students can request a mediation session or they may be referred by an adult.

How Do I Sign-Up for Peer Mediation?

1. Fill out a referral form and take it to Mr. Raynsford's or Mr. Hoffman's office. (Forms can be found with classroom teachers, recess supervisors, and school counselors.)
2. Write your name in the mediation schedule book.
3. Come to the Mediation Center on your scheduled date and time.

