

The Student-Mediation Dispute Resolution Program

Precisely, what does our program do?

1) Mediate situations

The core of the program is designed to guide disputants – students who are engaged in some sort of disagreement – through a process by which they themselves reach a peaceful resolution to their conflict.

↳ Common topics which we address include, but are not limited to:
gossip/rumors, friendship/relationship issues, miscommunication, depression, bullying/harassment, outlining consequences for rules violations, preventive intervention, personality conflicts, and more!

2) Crisis intervention

In the rare event of a time-sensitive crisis affecting the school, region or nation, mediators have been utilized in significant, meaningful ways.

↳ For instance: when students were killed in a 2007 vehicle accident, mediators were assigned to certain hallways to intercept any wayward grief-stricken students and tasked with escorting them to the school counselors. Similarly, on the day of the 2012 Connecticut school shooting, mediators were pulled from their classes to staff a designated room, whereupon we were made available to speak with or listen to students from the general population who were too traumatized to focus or who just needed a safe place to re-center themselves. The skill trainings mediators have – active-listening, attunement to non-verbal communication, questioning strategies, etc – enable them to be resources at the school in times of need.

3) Educate others

The teaching of our expertise to others may take on two forms:

↳ Veteran Student-Mediators will contribute to the teaching of conflict identification and resolution strategies to younger students within our own program.

↳ Mediation should never be viewed as a competitive enterprise. In this spirit, our program has regularly welcomed and responded to any requests for guidance or support from our colleagues, regardless of their location and without consideration of any reciprocal arrangement. As such, we have led presentations to professional audiences at conferences, and hosted schools and teachers wherein we have taught them the foundations of program structure and mediation practices.

For more information, contact:

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The Student-Mediation Dispute Resolution Program At Phoenix High School

Program Resolucion de Discusion de Mediacion Para Estudiantes De Phoenix High School



“The oldest continuously active program between Sacramento and Seattle”
Professional – Accountable – Academically Rigorous – Successful – Respectful
Established Summer 2000

What type of training opportunities are offered?

In preparing to handle any topic which might come across the mediation table, the following skills trainings are regularly available each year:

- ☞ Nonverbal Communication Awareness
- ☞ Basic Mediation Training Workshop
- ☞ Confidentiality and Legal Considerations
- ☞ Transitioning from Middle-to-High School Issues Seminars
- ☞ Preventing and Mediating School-Based Harassment Workshop
- ☞ Specific classes at Phoenix HS (Psychology, Psychological Literature, Sociology)
- ☞ The Clearness Committee (inspired by educational theorist Parker Palmer)
- ☞ Specific Skill Sets / Active Listening
- ☞ Specific Skill Sets / Non-Verbal Communication
- ☞ Specific Skills Set / Refereeing the Discourse
- ☞ The In-Crowd and Social Cruelty Training
- ☞ Program Overview Seminar
- ☞ Cultural Considerations
- ☞ Psychological Prompts for Conflict
- ☞ Sociological Prompts for Conflict
- ☞ Athletic Teams Disputes Workshop
- ☞ Gender in Conflict Resolution Workshop
- ☞ Gangs in Conflict Resolution
- ☞ Suicide Intervention
- ☞ Situation-Specific Conflict Topics
- ☞ Bystander Intervention Workshop
- ☞ Grief and Loss Seminar
- ☞ Perception and Cult of Thinness Seminar
- ☞ Practice Mediations
- ☞ Voluntary Off-Campus Training Offerings
- ☞ Communicating Through the Fog of Victimization, Abandonment and Depression
- ☞ Relationships and Human Interaction Training



Program honors and recognition

Representatives of the program have gained regional and national recognition, as evidenced by the following (the numbers are current through June 2015):

- ☞ 21 students have been nominated for the Young Peacemakers Imagine Award for Community Peacemaking; 16 won, and another 2 were designated as finalists.
- ☞ 15 students have received letters from their elected US Congress members in recognition of what they've accomplished as mediators.
- ☞ 6 students have received commendation from Oregon Department of Education
- ☞ 18 students have earned professional State of Oregon Mediator Certification.
- ☞ 1 student was accepted to a prominent national program due in part to her work with mediation, and once there she met President Barack Obama.
- ☞ The Program Coordinator was twice nominated – once declared a finalist – for Oregon Teacher of the Year. The program was cited as significant to this honor.
- ☞ In a presentation to the Oregon Mediation Association, our 4 students received the third highest evaluation from among over 60 professional workshop sessions.
- ☞ 4 students met and spent a half hour in discussion with the Governor of Oregon.
- ☞ This program has been a factor in getting invited to employment interviews

Vision Statement

To saturate the high school campus with students who have a background in conflict identification and dispute resolution skills, all the while maintaining a smaller highly-trained group of student-mediators who will actually handle the serious disputes in a controlled mediation atmosphere.

Mission Statement

The mission of the program is to contribute to the transformation of our school into a safer, more culturally attuned, sensitive and effective institution.

Through our efforts, we will strive . . .

- ✧ To encourage young people to become initiative-taking leaders in the school
- ✧ To help students and educators view conflict as an opportunity for personal and institutional growth.
- ✧ To teach students the skills to resolve conflict non-violently and collaboratively.
- ✧ To mediate challenging conflicts at the request of a concerned party.
- ✧ To disseminate an approach to problem solving that values diversity and respects differences of opinion.
- ✧ To provide students with knowledge, experience and the materials necessary to integrate collaborative conflict resolution processes into their personal lives and future endeavors.

Who can join the mediation program?

Anyone can join. No experience necessary.

Even those who have been disputants in the past are welcome to join without condition.

How do I join the program?

To join the program, all you need to do it start to attend some of the skill trainings. See the calendar available outside of Mr.Cornet's classroom for a schedule of what training topics are offered when. Skill trainings will occur throughout the year, but are heavily concentrated in the months of September, October, January and February.

How do I become a full time mediator?

There are two paths to becoming a full-time, full-fledged mediator, what we refer to as a "Veteran Student-Mediator". They are:

Traditional (commonly used) path

Meet one of the following criteria:
✓ 1000 minutes of training; minimum 5 trainings; 4 practice mediations
✓ 900 minutes of training; minimum 6 trainings; 5 practice mediations
✓ 800 minutes of training; minimum 7 trainings; 6 practice mediations
Of the trainings, four are requires and any others are of the students choice.

Expedited (infrequently used) path

For a 3-4 week period of time:
✓ Attend ever lunch training daily
✓ Sit-in on real mediations as an observer
✓ Meet with all experienced Veterans on campus to hear about their stories and learn of strategies.
✓ Practice mediations and specific skill trainings at every opportunity