



THE FLUSHING INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

144-80 Barclay Avenue Flushing, NY 11355 Phone (718) 463-2348 Fax (718) 463-3514

Flushing International High School Circle Processes

Circle Processes at FIHS fit within our Restorative Justice model of school discipline and community support. For hundreds of years, many world cultures have used group circles for storytelling, healing and developing open communication. The routine of regular dialogue in a circle allows students to practice developing empathy, listening, encouraging participation and inclusion of each individual. The Circle Process is a story-telling process. Every person has a story, and every story has a lesson to offer. In the Circle, people touch each other's lives by sharing stories that have meaning to them.

Circles create a positive school and classroom climate, help resolve behavior problems while restoring the damage caused by wrongful behavior. Circles can also support students who are struggling academically, socially and/or emotionally.

There are many different types of Circles. At FIHS we mainly practice the following types of Circles:

1. **Community Circles:** Can take place in a classroom/advisory setting to discuss academic, social to even personal student issues. *Can be easily facilitated by any staff member.*
2. **Support Circles:** Are used to provide moral and emotional support to students who may be struggling emotionally, socially or academically. *Should be facilitated by someone with Circle experience and training.*
3. **Restorative Circles:** Are used when there has been a violation of our School Community Principles. A restorative action plan by the harmers is decided collectively and is required. *Should be facilitated by someone with Circle experience and training.*
4. **Reintegration Circle:** Used to reintegrate and provide support to students who have been out of school for an extended period of time. A plan for support beyond the Circle is required. *Should be facilitated by someone with Circle experience and training.*
5. **Talk Circle:** Participants explore a particular issue or topic from many different perspectives. Talk Circles do not attempt to reach consensus on a topic. Rather, they allow all voices to be respectfully heard. They offer an opportunity for learning and reflection. *Can be easily facilitated by any staff member.*
6. **Healing Circle:** The purpose of a Healing Circle is to share the pain of a person or persons who have experienced trauma or loss. A plan for support beyond the Circle may emerge, but is not required. *Should be facilitated by someone with Healing Circle experience and training.*
7. **Acknowledgement or Celebration Circle:** Can be used to celebrate and/or acknowledge a member of the community that has excelled, shown growth, and/or contributed to school in a positive way. *Can be easily facilitated by any staff member.*

Anyone in the school community can request a Circle for him/herself or others in need of it.

*Adapted from Crotona International High School's Restorative Justice concepts and the Little Book of Circle Processes.
Last Updated: 6/25/13 by Tania Romero, LMSW, The Flushing International HS



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