

# Peer Mediation Information



## **What is Peer Mediation?**

Peer mediation is a technique used in any environment in which conflict may arise (i.e. schools, work, personal relationships, etc.). Peer mediation is an alternative in working towards resolution of conflict in a constructive manner with the help of peers. Many times, people in conflict do not have the patience or clear mindedness necessary to constructively solve problems between themselves. Also, the presence of complete strangers or authority figures may often lead to a “skewed” resolutions due to the disputants fear or lack of comfort in providing all the information, disclosure of personal feelings and exhibiting true emotion. The purpose and intention of peer mediation is to provide a familiar, comfortable and unbiased atmosphere while working with the disputants through leading them in conversation regarding all elements of the conflict and determining the best course of action to reach resolution.

## **Why use Peer Mediation?**

The installation of the peer mediation program at St. Gregory is not only to help resolve student-to-student conflict, but to also encourage and expand on the life skills that we work to teach everyday. Peer mediation is a program that is intended to help students exercise and develop skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, brainstorming, patience, open-mindedness, self-expression, working with others, etc. Peer mediation at St. Gregory will, hopefully, be a means to calm student-to-student conflict while educating and enhancing life skills.

## **When do students use Peer Mediation?**

Students will use peer mediation when they find themselves in conflicting situations with other students and are unable to reach resolution. Such circumstances may include gossip, classroom disputes, relationship issues, the “he said, she said” situations, etc. Peer mediation will never include discipline or academic issues and the counseling department will screen all requests for peer mediation.

## **What are the logistics of the program?**

Six student mediators, and two alternates, will go through training sessions in mid-October. Requests for peer mediation will be available on Mrs. Goodchild’s door for students and teachers to use. Peer mediations will take place Wednesdays and Fridays during advisory time (hopefully there will not be two mediations every week!). Students involved in the mediations will receive a pass, and their names will also be on the attendance sheet. If you have any questions or concerns, talk to Amy Goodchild.

*Some of the information on this sheet created by Sister Mary Ann Penner.*