



New York Center for Teacher Development, Inc.

In affiliation with The University of Massachusetts Global (Extended Education)

Course Syllabus

<u>Course:</u>	EDZU 9117 <u>Introduction to Restorative Practices in Schools and Classrooms</u>
<u>Credit Hours:</u>	3.0 credits / 45 hours
<u>Instructor:</u>	Amanda Catalano, MS Certified School Psychologist

Course Description

This course empowers educators to create a positive learning environment through foundational restorative practices. Geared for grades K-12, participants will gain practical skills in implementing community circles, fostering open communication, resolving conflicts, and strengthening connections within both school and classroom contexts. Designed to equip educators with essential tools, this course aims to cultivate a supportive educational space where every student feels valued and engaged in their learning journey.

Course Goals

To Know

1. Teachers enrolled in this course will know what restorative practices are.
2. Teachers enrolled in this course will know techniques for conflict resolution tailored for both classroom and school-wide settings.
3. Teachers enrolled in the course will know a variety of strategies for creating a positive learning environment where every student feels valued and supported.

To Understand

1. Teachers enrolled in this course will understand the importance of understanding for creating a positive learning environment.
2. Teachers enrolled in this course will understand the teacher's role in building stronger connections among students and within the school community.
3. Teachers enrolled in this course will understand how restorative practices techniques can cultivate a supportive educational space where every student feels valued.

and To Be Able To

1. Teachers enrolled in this course will be able to implement community circles effectively to promote open communication and build stronger connections among students
2. Teachers enrolled in this course will be able to foster positive learning environments by applying strategies to cultivate stronger connections between students and between educators and students.
3. Teachers enrolled in this course will be able to effectively connect with students in different ways.

Course Outline

1. Introduction to Restorative Practices

- a) Teachers will introduce themselves and explain the purpose for taking the course.
- b) Teachers will learn the principles of Restorative Practice in educational settings.
- c) Teacher will identify the key components of Restorative Practices.
- d) Five R's of Restorative Practices.
- e) Teachers will conduct an interview of school personnel with experience in restorative practices.
- f) Teachers will assess their own practices of relationship building.
 - i. Teachers will share their restorative practices implemented in their classrooms.
 - ii. Teachers will reflect on their personal beliefs of restorative practices.
- g) Teachers will understand the difference between school culture and school climate.

2. Fostering Relationships

- a) Teachers will examine the main premises of restorative practices
 - i. Examine research on fostering healthy relationships
 - ii. Analyze differences between restorative practices and zero tolerance discipline
- b) Teachers will discuss the importance of forming stronger relationships with their students.
- c) Effective strategies for building relationships
- d) Explore strategies for enhancing academic success through building meaningful relationships.

3. Understanding Community Circles

- a) Teachers will understand the purpose for community circles.
- b) Teachers will implement a classroom community circle.
- c) Teachers will learn scripts to effectively conduct a community circle in the classroom.
- d) Design community circle prompt handout.
- e) Teachers will understand the role community circles play in restorative practices.
- f) Teachers will create an implementation plan for community circles.

4. Resolving Conflicts

- a) Teachers will compare traditional punitive approaches to restorative practices.
- b) Teachers will analyze restorative solutions for classroom challenges.
- c) Teachers will evaluate the effectiveness of restorative justice in school discipline based on a book review.
- d) Teachers will understand the role of a justice committee.

5. Implementing Restorative Practices

- a) Teachers will integrate restorative language into classroom
- b) Teachers will learn scripts to effectively conduct restorative conversations.
- c) Restorative Practice: case study

- d) Restorative Practice role play using scripts.
- e) Providing valuable feedback that guides and informs students to improve relationship building in classrooms through restorative practices.

Methods of Instruction

Teachers enrolled in this course will evaluate primary and secondary sources, media presentations and other resources to better understand the characteristics and skills needed to implement restorative practices. Teachers will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class. They will also communicate with other teachers around the state and country to share success stories and gain insights into restorative practices. Teachers will complete assignments that assess their understanding of the strategies cultivating a supportive educational space where every student feels valued.

Students will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class.

Methods of Assessment

Student’s performance will be based on a variety of assessments. All in-service students must complete all of the assigned readings and assignments. In order to earn a “B” in the course, a student will be required to complete all readings and written assignments, in addition to submitting one paper discussing how the educator can directly implement what they have learned in the course to the school setting or your classroom. All graduate students working for an “A” in the course must complete the following: Students will complete all of the assigned readings and assignments. Students will submit two final papers. Students will submit one paper discussing how the student can directly implement what they have learned in the course to the school setting or their classroom. Students will submit another paper about how the role of implementing restorative practices in a school building can impact and build a positive school climate.

Instructors are online each day of the course and correspond with students through the course itself, feedback on assignments, e-mail, and by phone.

Time Validation

Assignment	Time (in hours)
Introduction - Gain introduction information and background on participants	0.50
Discussion/Reflection 1: Introduction	0.50
Intro Article on Restorative Practices-Gain a baseline on Restorative Practices. Answer reaction questions	1.00
Five R's of Restorative Practices	1.00
Interview with an education professional	3.00
Reflection: Gain beliefs and experiences with restorative practices	1.00
Discussion/Reflection 2: Restorative Practices Discussion	0.50
Article: School culture vs. School Climate. Answer reaction questions	1.00
Fresh Start to Restorative Practices	1.00

Article Review: Zero tolerance policies	1.00
Video Assignment and reflection questions: Every kid needs a champion	1.50
The MCPS Restorative Justice Program/ Complete relevant videos and answer questions	1.00
Discussion/Reflection 3: Classroom Connections	0.50
Video Assignment on Relationship Building-Complete relevant videos and answer questions	1.00
Fostering Healthy Relationships and Promoting Positive Discipline In Schools	1.00
2x10 Relationship Building Strategy and other alternative strategies	1.00
Importance of Student Connections	1.00
Video Assignment and reflection questions: A Tale of Two Teachers	1.00
Community Circle Definition	1.00
Implementation of Community Circles in classroom	1.50
Implementation Plan to conduct Community circles in classrooms	2.00
Design Community Circle Prompt Handout	1.50
Discussion/Reflection 4: Restorative Solutions for Classroom Challenges	0.50
Video Assignment on Resolving school conflicts with talking	1.00
Better than Carrots or Sticks: Punitive or Restorative	1.50
Mini Book Review: Hacking School Discipline	1.00
Video Assignment: Justice Committee-Complete relevant videos and answer questions	2.00
Article Review: An Alternative to Punitive Discipline That Really Holds Students Accountable	1.00
Article Review: Restorative Practices	1.00
Shifting School Climate and Culture	2.50
Discussion/Reflection 5: Building Relationships and Implementing Practices	0.50
Restorative Conversation Scripts	1.00
Case Study: Analyze a conflict between two students and how restorative practices can help	2.00
Role Play a restorative practice scenario and share their experience during this role play.	3.50
Final Essay/Closure-Restorative Practices closure essay.	3.00
Total Time	45.00