



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **John Marshall High School**

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**Ramon C. Cortines**

*Superintendent of Schools*

**Roberto A. Martinez**

*Superintendent, ESC East*

**Patricia Heideman**

*Principal*

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are pleased to share that our school will be implementing Restorative Justice practices to support all students. These practices will strengthen relationships and build community, both in the classroom and on the school campus. With this change, the emphasis shifts from traditional discipline towards restorative discipline, supporting students to be responsible, respectful and attentive to others' needs. If a student disrupts classroom teaching and violates our "The Barrister Code of Conduct", he/she will be supported but also held accountable for his/her actions.

If the misconduct does not include harm to others or harm to property, the teacher will speak with the student and re-teach expectations. After behavioral expectations are retaught, if the student continues the same misconduct, then that individual could be:

1. Assigned to a Restorative Justice Community Building Circle.
2. Assigned to participate in Restorative Conferences with school staff.
3. Given an opportunity to participate in Restorative Justice Harm Circle.
4. Assigned to the school site administrator for participation in alternatives to suspension, (e.g. intervention program, reconnection room, counseling, etc.) or be assigned suspension.

If the student is assigned to a Restorative Justice Harm Circle, parents will be invited to participate. In these cases, everyone impacted by the misconduct will work together to determine what needs to be done to make things as right as possible, including helping the student correct their wrong-doing. This works like a contract. If a student fails to keep his or her agreement, the student will forfeit the chance to avoid suspension or on-site alternative to suspension. If assigned to a school- or community-based youth court, the student will face a judge and a jury of peers. The goal is to reach an agreement with the court stating how the student will improve his or her behavior with others, including classmates, teachers, counselors and family. If the responsibilities are not fulfilled, the student will go through the regular District level policies of suspension and/or expulsion.

Our goal: to ensure that all students follow school policies. When young people make a mistake, our aim is that they learn from it. However, Restorative Justice practices do not replace formal student discipline procedures. For more information, please refer to the LAUSD 2014-2015 Parent/Student Handbook, suspension and expulsion section.

Implementing Restorative Justice practices as an alternative to the traditional discipline process assists students in this learning process. Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns. Let's look forward to an amazing school year!

Sincerely,

Patricia Heideman, Principal

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### **LAUSD Mission Statement**

*The teachers, administrators, and staff of the Los Angeles Unified School District believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and are committed to educate all students to their maximum potential.*