***“Restorative” means to believe that decisions are best made and conflicts are best resolved by those most directly involved in them. The restorative practices movement seeks to develop good relationships and restore a sense of community in an increasingly disconnected world.”***(from The Restorative Practices Handbook for Teachers, Disciplinarians and Administrators: Building a Culture of Community in Schools by Bob Costello, Joshua Wachtel and Ted Wachtel)

**The Restorative Practices Continuum**

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|  | **What it is** | **What it looks like in practice** | **Where it takes place** |
| **Step 1** | Affective Statements | Expressing your feelings; Can be used to acknowledge success, hard work, collaboration or any other desirable behavior. It can also be used to express concern for inappropriate behavior | Classroom, playground, cafeteria, gymnasium, hallway (delivered privately) |
| **Step 2** | Affective questions | Asking questions that help the student work through the issue(s) they are having in the moment | Classroom, playground, cafeteria, gymnasium, hallway (delivered privately) |
| **Step 3** | Small Impromptu conferences | Addressing a problem to keep it from escalating and to resolve the problem quickly, but in a way that gets students actively engaged in expressing their feelings and in thinking about the impact of their behavior and about how to resolve the conflicts | Classroom, playground, cafeteria, gymnasium, hallway (delivered privately) |
| **Step 4** | Circles | A proactive process for building social capital and creating classroom norms. They can also be used as a response to wrongdoing. (A talking piece is helpful in this process.) | Small group, whole class |
| **Step 5** | Formal conferences | **Restorative conferences**—Formal responses to wrongdoing where all those involved and affected by an incident come together with a trained facilitator to explore what happened, who was affected and what needs to be done to make things right.  **Family Group Decision-making—**High level of family involvement and often include extended family and friends. The important part of this process is “family alone time”. | Small group |