



Lake Ann Elementary December 2025 Newsletter

Restorative Practices at Benzie Central Schools

Restorative practices are a district wide approach that seeks to Building Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships, shifting the focus from blame to repair and responsibility.

What Are Restorative Practices?

Restorative practices focus on repairing harm and restoring relationships instead of assigning punishment. They help students build empathy, communication, and accountability by:

- Strengthening community and belonging
- Encouraging accountability and empathy
- Resolving conflict through dialogue
- Promoting emotional and social growth

Why Use Restorative Practices?

Consideration and use of Restorative Practices is required by Michigan Law. Elementary students are developing socially and emotionally. Restorative approaches help students navigate conflict, manage emotions, and develop self-awareness.

Benefits:

- Reduced suspensions and detentions
- Improved classroom climate
- Increased trust between students and staff
- Greater sense of fairness and inclusion

Core Components

1. Restorative Circles – Group discussions that build trust and resolve issues through open communication.
2. Restorative Conversations – One-on-one talks that promote understanding and repair harm.
3. Restorative Conferences – Structured meetings that involve everyone affected by an incident.
4. Community-Building Activities – Daily practices like check-ins, gratitude rounds, or reflections.

What Does a Restorative School Look Like?

- Students feel safe, heard, and valued.
- Teachers lead with empathy and fairness.
- Conflicts are learning opportunities.
- Relationships come first, discipline follows restoration.

When is a Restorative approach used?

Whenever building a sense of community will benefit the group through empathy and shared responsibility. Whenever a conflict happens where individuals or the whole group suffer. Restorative practices are used to repair the relationships and provide for a way for individuals and the group to heal and move forward.

School Nurse Corner –

Bundle up, snowflakes! As winter swirls in with frosty mornings and twinkling lights, our school community is stepping into a season full of wonder, excitement... and yes, a few extra germs trying to sneak in like mischievous little elves. Here's how we can all stay merry, bright, and healthy this December!

Frosty Facts: Staying Healthy in the Cold

Cold and flu season is tiptoeing in like snowflakes—quiet but plentiful! Please keep your child home if they have:

- A *toasty* fever of **100.4°F (38°C) or higher**
- Tummy troubles in the last 24 hours
- A cough that sounds more like a foghorn
- A new or spreading rash

Students should be fever-free and symptom-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to our wintry halls.

Dress Like a Snow-Day Superstar

Winter winds are blowing! Please send students with:

- A warm **coat** (yes, even if they promise they're "not cold")
- **Hats, gloves, and scarves**
- **Boots** for slushy playground adventures
- **Inside Shoes**

Warm Hearts in a Cold Month

December can be magical—but also busy, loud, and sometimes overwhelming. Remind your child that it's okay to take a "snowflake break" when they're tired or stressed. Cozy routines like reading, snuggling under a blanket, and enjoying hot cocoa together make a big difference.

Jingle Bell Handwashing!

Handwashing is our glittery shield against winter germs. Encourage kids to wash their hands:

- Before eating
- After the restroom
- After coughing, sneezing, or nose-blowing
- When returning home from school

Medication & Health Reminders

If your child needs medication during the school day:

- Please complete the required **medication authorization form**
- Bring medicines in their **original labeled container**
- A parent/guardian must drop them off in the school office

Wishing You a Cozy & Magical Winter Season

Thank you for helping keep our Winter Wonderland safe and healthy! Wishing you and your family a month full of warmth, joy, and sparkle. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Stay warm & stay well,
Nurse Rudy 231-871-8884 or rstrickland@bldhd.org



*Sounds
of The
Season*

LAKE ANN ELEMENTARY

Wednesday, December 17, 2022

6:00 pm at
Lake Ann Elementary

Restorative Practices – Common Misconceptions

Misconception: Restorative practices don't hold students accountable; students can say or do anything without consequences.

Fact: Restorative practices take student accountability to a higher level. Students and teachers are engaged in collaborative conversations around choices so that students can understand the impact of their choices, value the relationships they have with peers and adults, and decide to embrace personal growth and change.

Misconception: Engaging in restorative practices instead of expulsion or suspension condones violent or extreme behavior.

Fact: Removing a student for extreme behavior only sends the problem somewhere else and does not solve the problem within the context that the problem occurred. Restorative practices provide students with a chance to change their behavior by providing the support they need to make lasting personal change.

Misconception: Students should come to school knowing how to behave appropriately.

Fact: Students come to school with experiences and personality traits that are forming before they enter school. By using restorative practices, students can experience and learn pro-social behaviors that will enhance the likelihood of their success in school and life, no matter their experiences or temperament.

Gym Days – Monday,
Tuesday, Friday – Tennis
shoes needed

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Last day for cash donations for Move-a-thon	5 Bake Sale 2nd/3rd Foundation Friday - Early Release PD Coffee and Conversation 9-10	6 Last day for online donations for Move-a-thon 1 pm Service for Mr. Marshall
7	8 Tornado Drill am	9 Monthly PTO meeting 4:30 in the cafeteria <div>Craft Frenzy during school hours!</div>	10	11	12	13 Lake Ann Elementary Craft Show 10-3
14	15	16 Kindergarten field trip to Incredible MO's	17 LAE Christmas Program 6 pm	18	19 9-10 am Character Cafe	20
21	22 Holiday Break	23 Holiday Break	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Holiday Break	27
28	29 Holiday Break	30 Holiday Break	31 New Year's Eve			