

STARTING A PEACE CIRCLE

There are many ways to approach this concept. The ways that work best are the ones that are designed in collaboration with students, staff, and even the community.

1. ***Who is the Peace Circle for?*** Is this for a classroom, or for the whole school? Will the focus be on teachers presenting to students, students presenting to students, classes presenting to classes? Knowing the audience helps determine how to conduct the Peace Circle.
2. ***What will we do at the Peace Circle?*** If students are presenting to students in a classroom, the activities will be different than if a class is presenting to the school.
3. ***Where will we have our Peace Circle?*** If your whole school or several classes are participating, the gym is a perfect spot. Students can form a circle (or circles). The circle works well because you are facing each other. If the Peace Circle is for one class, then an open area in the classroom would work. Peace Circles are also nice to hold outside, weather permitting.
4. ***When will we have our Peace Circle?*** It's good to have the Peace Circle time be consistent. Weekly works very well, as it sets the tone for the week and the positive effects are regularly reinforced. Monthly Peace Circles are also successful.
5. ***Why have a Peace Circle?*** The primary goal of the Peace Circle is to promote peace. In order for this to be successful, it is helpful to have a view of how to use the Peace Circle towards that end. The focus can be intra-student, teacher-student, school-community, or all three.
6. ***How will we organize the Peace Circle?*** The idea is meant to be highly adaptable. One example of the organization of a Peace Circle is available at abcteach, titled "Peace Circle Experience."