

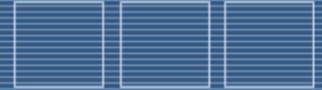


Interactions for Peace

The Goal of Interactions for Peace is to provide and sustain peaceful and safe environments for Our children

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Interactions for Peace[®] Conflict Resolution Program MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIATORS

Program implementation testimonial from:

Mary Lou Fredrickson, Counselor

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The Middle School Mediators Program at Irving Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska began in 1993. Mary Lou Fredrickson, School Counselor, attended the *Interactions for Peace*[®] ~ *Peace Patrol* training in San Diego, California in July 1993, and then returned to Irving to implement the program.

Mrs. Fredrickson used the *Peace Patrol* training model and then adapted the implementation process to middle school students. Mary Lou not only began the program at Irving Middle School, but also conducted training for other middle schools in the Lincoln Unified School District. She now serves as the *Interactions for Peace*[®] ~ *Middle School Mediators and Peer Listeners* Director and Co-Director of the Bully Prevention Program, *Bullies Beware!*.

Eden Steele, Founder and Executive Director of *Interactions for Peace*[®], came to Lincoln, Nebraska and conducted training for all Lincoln Public School counselors in July 1994. She trained elementary and middle school counselors in the *Interactions for Peace*[®] ~ *Peace Patrol* model and several schools have implemented the Program. The district also purchased *Peace Patrol* books for each counselor.

At Irving Middle School the program has been successfully operating for eight years. During that time, 128 middle school students have been trained in the mediation process. The entire student body has learned about mediation through classroom presentations done yearly by the *Middle School Mediators* and the counselors.

Since its beginning, the atmosphere at Irving has improved. There are minimal fights at school and all students, teachers and administrators use mediation as an effective way to resolve conflicts. It has become our way of interacting with each other, our culture. Each year over 100 peer mediations take place, which prevent disputes from turning into major conflicts. The counseling office has seen an increase in students talking about their feelings more than acting them out in a negative manner.

Our principal, Dave Van Horn, strongly endorses the program. Because mediation is the internalized process for interacting with one another at our school, he uses our mediation process in a variety of ways. One example is when two students return from a suspension and need to resolve their underlying problem, he instructs them to mediate their problem before they return to school. Mr. Van Horn states that our disciplinary referrals to the office have been greatly reduced.

Our culture is one of peaceful conflict resolution, non-violence and service to others.

Mary Lou Fredrickson, Counselor
Irving Middle School

