

The Dutchtown High School Peer Mediation Team Constitution and By-Laws

Article I: Name of the Organization

The name of this school club shall be the Peer Mediation Team.

Article II: Mission Statement

The Peer Mediation Team serves as a medium to foster cultural proficiency within our school, to encourage cultural sensitivity toward differences, and to create a school climate that respects all students and assists them with resolving conflict in a constructive manner.

Article III: Purpose of the Organization

Purpose:

The purpose of this organization is to promote the ability of individuals to deal effectually with issues of cultural and social diversity, while additionally providing the option of resolving peer conflicts amongst students and staff with a neutral mediator during the process, with the intent of reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement.

Goals:

1. To initiate and promote activities that will make Dutchtown High School a “No Place for Hate” campus.
2. To create and promote a safe environment where students feel welcome and accepted.
3. To aid students with resolving disputes between two or more students with the goal of preventing the need of administration from becoming involved in disputes among students.
4. To serve as delegates for new students to DHS, showing them around and helping freshmen get acclimated to high school.

Article IV: Membership

Students are nominated for membership into the Peer Mediator Team through referrals to the Team’s Co-advisors by faculty and staff members, administrators and other students. Students may also nominate themselves for membership.

Requirements & Guidelines for Membership:

1. Members are students from diverse backgrounds in good academic standing with a clean disciplinary history.
2. Members must have a sincere interest in helping others, and must have respect for diversity.
3. Members must be open-minded, even-tempered, have patience, good communication and negotiation skills, be a leader amongst their peers,

- demonstrate good problem solving skills and understanding, and be nonjudgmental.
4. Members must participate in ADL (Anti-Defamation League) diversity education training sessions, and must receive peer mediation training through ADL and Dutchtown High School.
 5. The membership of any member shall be terminated if student receives multiple disciplinary referrals or exhibits behaviors that are deemed unacceptable by the co-advisors and membership of the organization.

Article IV: Officers and Advisors

The officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. [These are general officers, add officers specific to the needs of the club, if necessary.] Members of the organization will vote on officers for the upcoming school year at the end of the spring semester, during the spring reception ceremony.

Officer/Advisor Duties and Guidelines:

1. The President- it shall be the duty of the President to:
 - Preside at meetings
 - Represent the club
 - Lead most of the Team's activities
 - Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office
2. The Vice President-it shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:
 - Preside in the absence of the President
 - Serve as chairperson on program committees
3. Secretary- It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:
 - Record the minutes of all meetings
 - Keep a file of the club's records
 - Maintain a current roster of membership
 - Maintain members participation using the Team's point system
 - Email/or text members of upcoming meetings, events and cancelations
4. Treasurer-It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:
 - Receive all the funds and turn funds into the Team Sponsor
 - Keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures and make reports as directed
5. The officers shall serve for one year and their term of office shall begin at the commencement of the fall semester.
 - If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term and vacancies in any other office shall be filled by special election.
6. The Advisors can be faculty and staff members or administrators who have a committed interest in supporting this program. Advisors must have time to facilitate regular meetings and maintain open lines of communication with school and district officials, along with ADL staff members.

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Article V: Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the team by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present. Notice of proposed amendment shall be presented to the Advisor(s) in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Article VI: Meetings

There shall be at least one meeting per month during the school calendar year within the months of September and April.

Article VII: Quorum

A quorum of the team shall consist of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total active membership. A Quorum for committee meeting shall consist of the majority of the members of the committee.