

# **MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM**

## **DEFINITION OF PEER MEDIATION:**

Peer mediation is a process in which a neutral third party (a pair of trained student mediators) assists two disputing students to find a solution to their conflict.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PEER MEDIATION TRAINING WORKSHOP:**

The students participating in Peer Mediation training learn a variety of skills relevant to the mediation process. The specific skills include, but are not limited to: understanding perspective, effective communication, significance of body language, recognizing “hot buttons”, decision making, identification of common ground, brainstorming, and active listening. Students are guided through role plays because experience and practice are the best teachers.

## **INTENDED RESULTS OF THE PEER MEDIATION TRAINING PROGRAM:**

Students emerge from Peer Mediation Training with life-skills which can be applied to situations in and out of school. Peer mediators will be called upon to mediate disputes between other students before these conflicts escalate into office referrals. A peer mediation advisor will be present at all sessions for support and guidance.

The school benefits as well. Both student behavior and school discipline problems improve as a result of peer mediation. All students, both disputants and mediators, learn within the process a method for talking about problems, learning more about the viewpoints of others, and practice better communication in a nonviolent, nonjudgmental atmosphere. It is a win-win situation!!