

## WM Peer Mediator Program Information

What is it? The Peer Mediator program is a violence prevention program as well as an innovative, effective way to handle discipline programs at school. While teaching new ways to deal with conflict, the program also helps young people understand that physical violence and aggressive behavior are not appropriate ways to deal with problems. This program teaches children to work through their disagreements and arrive at mutually acceptable solutions.

What does it look like at West Mercer? Team of two 4th and 5th grade students who are specially trained as Peer Mediators are assigned to approximately one primary recess a week to watch for fights or disputes and help the student in conflict talk out the problem and arrive at a solution.

What's the process? 4th and 5th grade students complete an application. By signing the application, the teacher is endorsing that student as a Peer Mediator and agreeing to allow the student to carry out the necessary duties. In considering an applicant's interest in becoming a peer mediator, teachers and parents need to keep in mind that mediators will be missing 30-40 minutes of class periodically. Twenty-five to thirty students are chosen and trained as Peer Mediators. Parent permission is required. At different times during the school year, Peer Mediators will meet at lunch with their supervisors to discuss issues, concerns and questions.

Faculty Supervisors: Trina Sherman, 3rd Grade Teacher & Laura Falsgraff, MIYFS Counselor at West Mercer.