The Mediation Center's Peer Mediation program is a youth-led confidential process for resolving conflicts. Students have the opportunity to talk through different situations with the help of trained student mediators. Peer mediators do not take sides and keep all information confidential. This process nurtures empathy and empowers students to develop their own solutions.

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Peer Mediators are students who are committed to making their school a peaceful place to learn. Before they can mediate, students receive intensive training in communication, problem-solving, and conflict-resolution skills.

- Participating in mediation gives youth the opportunity to approach a negative situation in a non-threatening manner.
- Students, administrators, parents, and other community members can request mediation to help students resolve conflict.

Many kinds of conflict can be mediated including social media issues, disagreements, rumors and gossip, harassment, cheating, stealing, and cases of vandalism.

There are four steps to the mediation process:

1. Introduction and ground rules
2. Storytelling (Participants can tell their side without interruption.)
3. Identifying issues and needs
4. Finding a solution (Participants describe what they each feel will help resolve the conflict, thereby creating their own solutions. Peer Mediators write these solutions into an agreement for the Parties.)

The Ground Rules: Do not interrupt; no name-calling or put-downs; listen and be honest; agree to work toward solving the problem; keep what is said in mediation confidential; follow through on your agreement.

Anyone interested in becoming a Peer Mediator can talk to their school counselor.

For more information on Peer Mediation: youth@mediationsavannah.com 912-999-2110