

BLACK LIVES MATTER GUIDING PRINCIPLES

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL VERSIONS OF THE 13 PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE	Restorative Justice is the commitment to building a loving community that is sustainable and growing. If someone in the community hurts someone else, we focus on communicating and solving the problem instead of on punishing people.
EMPATHY	We practice empathy. We do our best to listen and learn from people so we can connect with them and their experiences.
LOVING ENGAGEMENT	Loving Engagement is the commitment to practice justice, liberation and peace, with all the people we encounter and work with in our daily lives. We enact the values and visions we have for the world in ALL the spaces of our lives.
DIVERSITY	We acknowledge, respect, and celebrate all the ways we're different and all the things we have in common. We work hard for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people.
GLOBALISM	Black people around the world have all different circumstances, and some of them have it easier than others. We are all part of the global Black family.
TRANSGENDER AFFIRMING	We make space for transgender people to participate and lead. We know that cisgender (not trans) people in our society have privilege, and we want to uplift trans people, especially black trans women who often experience violence.
QUEER AFFIRMING	We don't assume anyone's sexuality - everyone has the right to say for themselves how they identify. Our community affirms and celebrates queer people.
COLLECTIVE VALUE	We are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, no matter a person's sexuality, gender, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or where they live.
INTERGENERATIONAL	We believe that all people, regardless of age, show up with the ability to lead and learn.
BLACK FAMILIES	We make our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We do that so parents - especially mothers who are sometimes expected to stay home with children - can be part of the movement.
BLACK VILLAGES	We are a community; we support each other and help each other. We are united like family, even if we don't live together or aren't related by blood.
BLACK WOMEN	We build a space that centers and affirms Black women and girls. We work to dismantle sexism and misogyny in society and in our communities.
UNAPOLOGETICALLY BLACK	We don't apologize for who we are or what we believe! We say Black Lives Matter because we know that if some of us aren't free, then none of us are free.