

# Building a Restorative School-Family Community

## What brought you to this work?

Williams-Wright: I am interested to learn more about restorative justice, and extending these practices to the broader school community. While restorative justice is often used as an alternative to punitive systems for responding to harm after it has been inflicted, the foundation of any restorative process is a community with strong relationships. In general, relationships between teachers, students, and families are not strong across Braddock Hills and I want to change that.

Anderson: I want to surround myself with thought partners who can help me to center the pursuit of justice in my work, to be deeply grounded in the realities of day-to-day teaching and learning, and to anticipate and counteract possibilities for misappropriation. In addition, collaboration is truly my favorite part of research and it's an honor and a pleasure to be allowed into Judy's learning space and to serve as her research partner.

## Research questions

How do students and families perceive their relationships with the teachers, administrators and staff of Braddock Hills High School? What do students and families feel would be helpful for building relationships and/or repairing harm with the school?

## Research plan

(1) Engage students in Judy's Crew as co-investigators to co-develop interview protocols, conduct interviews, and co-present findings. (2) Conduct semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups with students and family members. (3) Conduct feedback sessions in which teachers and family members can discuss findings from the research

## Working together

It's been good to cooperate and have another set of eyes that look at things a little differently. We have both learned from each other and from Judy's students!

