

PHILOSOPHY HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Points are earned not lost.** Points are earned by "doing what is expected, and doing it the best you can". The teacher sets the expectations for each class period. The students work with the teacher to assess the points they have earned at the end of each class period.
- 2. It is a privilege to be in class and in school. Children choose by their actions and choices what is the least restrictive environment that they can handle. Students make decisions which result in consequences. Interferences show a choice for a Step.** If they choose a step, they may earn all of their points by doing what is expected on Step, even though they miss class work. They have not earned all of their points for that particular class period, because of the behavior that got them to steps.
- 3. MYD strives to build an internal locus of control for the child, not external controls.** This should eliminate much of any power struggle in a classroom or any setting. Repetitiveness and severity of behaviors do make a difference and require the child to assume more responsibility through steps or points.
- 4. Class is a family working together in a learning experience, a place that needs communication and plenty of caring and positive support.** It needs to be a safe place for growth.
- 5. Mistakes are an opportunity to learn. Steps are a time for processing by the student on how to make better choices about not interfering with the learning, safety, or well-being of others.**
- 6. Respect for each other supersedes all else.**
- 7. Everyone works together.** The child feels the support of the entire staff, his/her teacher, her/his peers, and s/he learns s/he can rely on himself.
- 8. Adult coping skills are developed. This includes communication, peer mediation, decision making, assuming responsibility, problem solving, and learning how to be assertive instead of aggressive.**