

"The most effective, timely information on helping young people. Intended for schools, institutions and home."

Dr. Mayer's Memo

Volume 20, Issue 01



Feel free to send this Memo to a colleague, friend, or parent(s). I just ask to always do that in its entirety.

Presented to you by:

Center for Youth Research +
CFYR Publishing, Inc.

Dr. John E. Mayer, Director

*Caring and commitment
through excellence.*

Contact Information:

55 East Washington Street
Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-917-1240
Email: JMayer2@AOL.com

Please visit my web site for
more information and back
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www.DrJohnMayer.com

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web site for more details!)

Looky Here! I've finally entered the Computer Age!

Welcome to the new look and distribution of Mayer's Memos.

What do you think? I would welcome comments-just email me back.

Now, this issue's topic, taken from the response to our survey: (PS. If the survey call didn't reach you last school year, we are continuing to collect data-thanks for helping.)

Detentions & Suspensions

The most popular topic suggested from the survey we did on these **Memos** last spring was to discuss my thoughts on **DETENTIONS & SUSPENSIONS**.

I would like us to consider a few facts:

- ✓ Research shows that the vast majority of students who serve detentions and/or suspensions are repeat offenders.
- ✓ Home suspensions often punish parents more than the student.
- ✓ Monetary fines also punish parents more than students.
- ✓ The typical after school detention does not achieve remediation of behavior. It just detains.

Now consider a few solutions:

1- Always get parents involved in detentions and suspensions immediately.

Student's 1st and 2nd detention = student must call parent immediately from the dean's office. The Dean and a counselor also talk with the parent.

3rd offense = parent must come to a 7:15 AM meeting the next morning.

4th offense and beyond = the parent must show up at school and sit with their child while they serve the in-school suspension or detention. No matter how many class periods this is.

Use this time to instruct the student and

the parents on the philosophy and rule structure of the school. Have the student's counselor stop in and work with the parent on academic and behavioral problems.

I have always found that when you involve and to be honest, inconvenience, the parents, most of the student offenders show remarkable progress.

2- Give students real consequences.

For every detention, no matter the infraction always remove the student from the scene/class of the offense. They should be sent the student to the Dean's office or Student Services immediately.

Teacher should send student away with an extra homework assignment or a 'make-up' assignment(s) the student missed in the past. May want to put this step right on your suspension/detention slip.

Student returns to that class only after passing a test on the subject matter of those class hours they missed.

Eliminate completely any home detention or suspension. Home suspensions just reward the negative behavior.

Levy a fine on the student. Make it the pro-rated amount of the hourly salary of the staff member monitoring the in-school suspension/detention.

---Summary---

1st & 2nd offense = remove student--parent call--make-up work + quiz

3rd offense & beyond = remove longer per seriousness of the offense—all of the 1st & 2nd conditions—more make-up work/study