Vision:
John Morse Therapeutic Center is a caring community that provides the process and structure which enable students and families to make positive social, emotional, and academic choices that position them to be productive members of society.

Mission:
In order to bring our vision into reality, we will

- Use effective teaching methods that address the individual needs of each student and promote and monitor academic and pro-social growth.
- Provide student-centered academic and behavioral goals.
- Provide a consistent school-wide reinforcement system to stimulate extrinsic motivation while supporting the development of intrinsic motivation.
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in project-based learning.
- Support students transitioning into other academic programs.
- Empower students to make decisions promoting healthful, independent and fulfilled lives.

Student Population
Student referral behaviors may include any one or more of the following issues:

> post traumatic stress
> physical abuse
> psychological abuse
> physical aggression
> self-injury
> depression
> mental illness
> inappropriate language
> ADHD/ADD
> domestic violence
> sexual abuse
> abandonment
> suicidality
> run-away
> mood disorder
> oppositional defiance
> property destruction
> sexualized behaviors

Sacramento City Unified School District

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Tom Sisterson, School Psychologist
Carol Lambert, Clinical Social Worker
Jason Burke, Behavior Intervention Specialist
Emotional Disturbance

Students identified as having emotional disturbance exhibit one or more of the following:

1. An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.
2. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers or teachers.
3. Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances.
4. A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or anxiety.
5. A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Therapeutic Interventions

To meet the individual needs of students, a variety of programs and therapies are provided to meet the needs of our diverse population.

- **Mindfulness therapy** increases attention skills and the ability to focus on learning. Increases self-awareness and conflict resolution skills, supports stronger impulse control and empathy, increases emotional regulation skills, decreases stress and test anxiety, and reduces violence.
- **Collaborative Problem-Solving** helps students work through problems and find alternative methods of coping with frustration and anger other than violence.
- **Conflict Resolution/Mediation** to support collaborative problem solving and restorative justice when two or more students are in conflict.
- **Student Support Groups** that provide opportunities for students to work on friendships, anger management, and other adolescent issues.
- **Therapeutic activities** include callirobics, gardening and cooking. (More “therapeutic” activities need to be investigated such as dance, music, art, etc.)
- **Individual counseling** provided by a wide variety of professionals (social workers, psychologists, interns, Mental Health professionals)
- **Restorative Justice** provides students opportunities to assume leadership roles in managing tensions and conflicts repairing harm they have caused, which helps build healthy relationships.

Academic Program

The district-adopted core curriculum is the foundation in each classroom; however, many specific interventions and teaching strategies are provided to help students cope with learning problems and anxieties.

**Processing Disabilities**
- Visual
- Auditory
- Sensory Motor
- Cognitive
- Attention (ADHD/ADD)

**Learning Disabilities**
- Reading Comprehension, Fluency, Skills
- Mathematics Calculation and Reasoning
- Oral Expression
- Written Expression
- Listening Comprehension

Strategies to support student learning

- Individualized, small group, and whole class instruction
- Hands-on activities
- Technology - used to identify academic gaps, to build reading and math skills, and to promote life skills work
- Memory training
- Attention training
- Fine and gross motor training
- Speech and language services