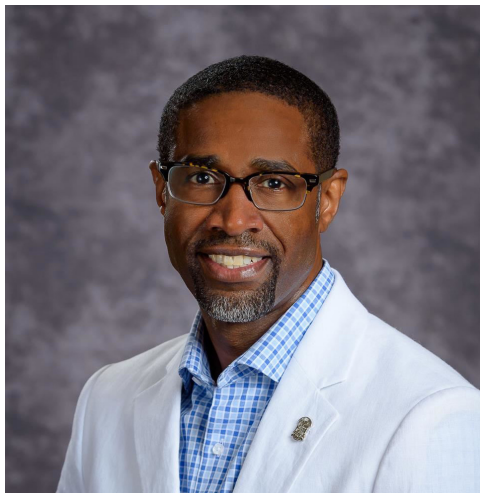




CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PEACE



Kevin Hudson

Class Principal at Pioneer High School
Peace Board Member

Many of the lessons Kevin Hudson learned while working at Peace Neighborhood Center years ago still translate to his current work supporting students as a Class Principal at Pioneer High School.

Kevin first joined Peace Neighborhood Center in 1989 as a part-time Youth Program Coordinator for Peace's after-school and summer programs, while he was an undergraduate student at Eastern Michigan University studying social work and psychology.

Kevin was immediately struck by Peace's unique approach to serving youth and families—one that values coming together as a community to help everyone, just like a big family. During his graduate studies at the the University of Michigan, Kevin served as a counselor for many young people at Peace, helping to improve the lives of the kids he worked with.

Kevin started his career as a school social worker in the Ypsilanti Public School system, where he encountered a completely different approach to helping students. He came to appreciate how Peace develops open communications and trusting relationships with youth, parents, and teachers—the cornerstone of Peace's approach that has proven so effective in making a difference in young people's lives.

Kevin notes that at Peace, a safe place that inspires mutual trust, parents would share freely about their children's issues. In the public school system, Kevin initially found parents more hesitant with school staff—and in response, he has spent his career finding ways to help build a sense of genuine trust among students, their parents, teachers, and school administrators. At Pioneer High School, Kevin's had the opportunity to work with high school students he onced helped at Peace Neighborhood Center as elementary students.

He marvels at how much they have benefitted from Peace programs, noting:

“ You definitely notice the difference with Peace Neighborhood kids. The life-long connections they maintain at Peace are really a blessing. It's a place that genuinely cares about kids. Many of the lessons I learned while working at Peace translate to my current work with students at Pioneer—how to build trust with students, while keeping them accountable.

I often share with my colleagues that if a kid doesn't trust that you care, they won't be invested in what you have to share or what you hope to teach them. If families and kids know that you care about them, you have a better chance of helping them cultivate success in their lives.”



Peace
Neighborhood
Center 1971 - 2021