

session

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The Good Life— Wellness

Agenda

- **Description of wellness**
- **Ways we can achieve psychological, physical, and spiritual wellness**
- **Stress reduction and the relaxation response**
- **Making a commitment to lifestyle change**

What Is Wellness?

Wellness is a choice of lifestyle marked by a balance of mind, body, and spirit.

Body: Physical Wellness

- **Physical wellness involves aspects of health related directly to the body.**
- **Physical wellness means you can get through the day with enough energy for work and play.**

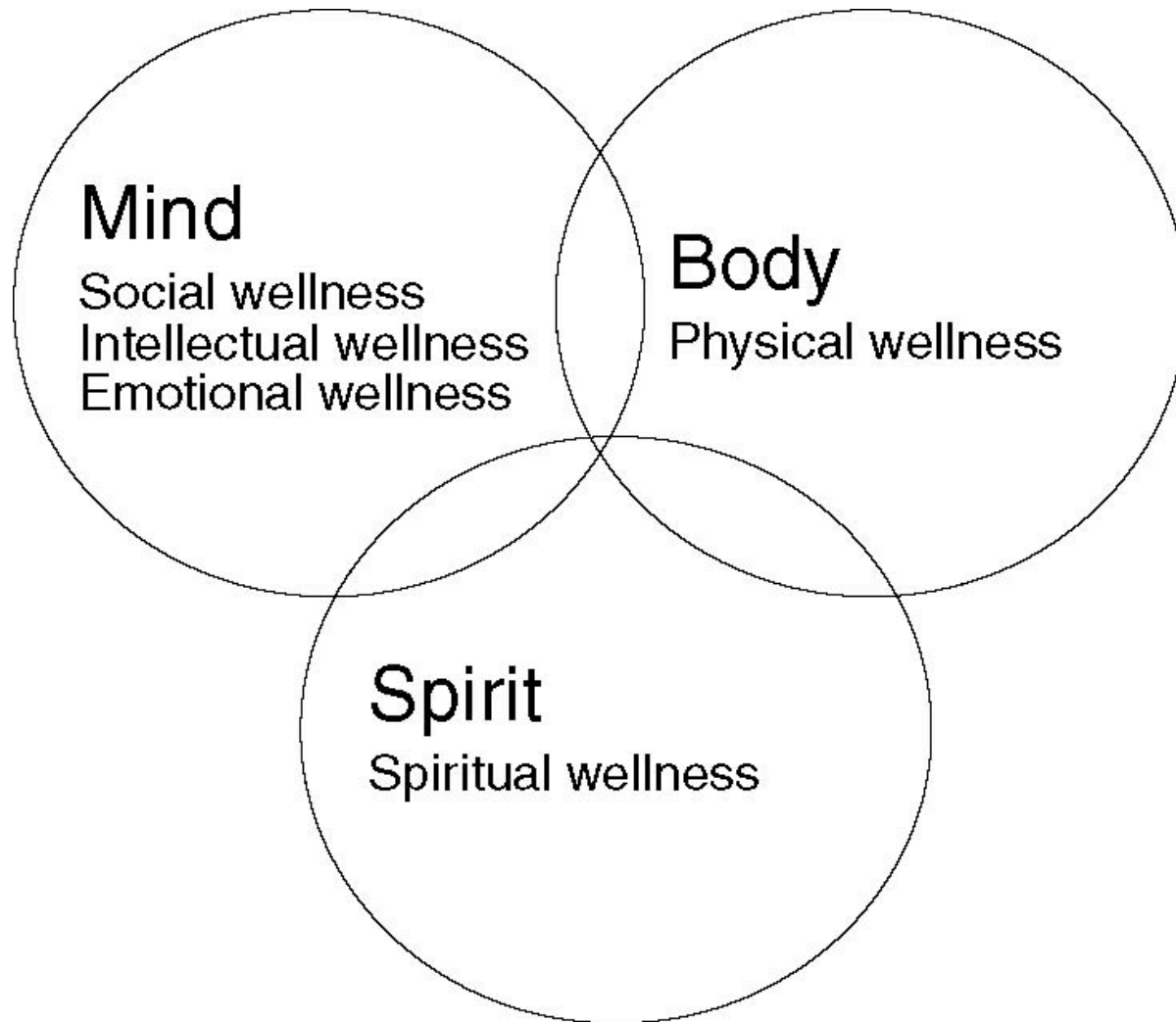
Mind: Social, Emotional, and Intellectual Wellness

- **Social wellness involves interacting with people and the environment and having satisfying relationships.**
- **Emotional wellness involves a sense of self-worth and an acceptance for things that are different.**
- **Intellectual wellness involves your ability to use the knowledge that you acquire.**

Spirit: Spiritual Wellness

- **Spiritual wellness involves your relationship to other living things and the role of spiritual direction in your life.**
- **Spiritual wellness means working to achieve spiritual potential and find harmony in living.**

Group Activity: Mind, Body, Spirit



Mind: Activities to Enhance Psychological Wellness

- **Deep breathing techniques**
- **Support groups for grieving**
- **Time management techniques**
- **Facilitated communication classes**
- **Massage therapy**
- **Reading groups**

Body: Activities to Enhance Physical Wellness

- **Aerobics**
- **Walking clubs**
- **Strength training**
- **Consumer education**
- **Cooking with healthy fat**
- **Smoking cessation**

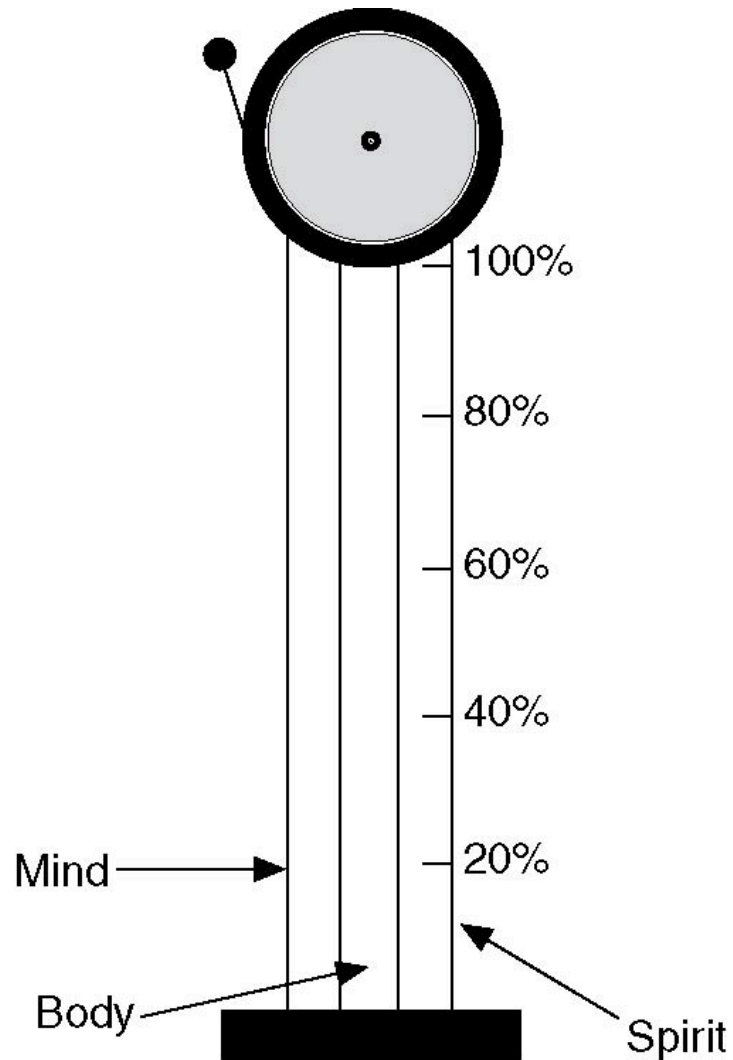
Spirit: Activities to Enhance Spiritual Wellness

- **Journal writing and writing groups**
- **Spending time in nature**
- **Gardening**
- **Painting**
- **Listening to music**
- **Meditation**
- **Yoga**

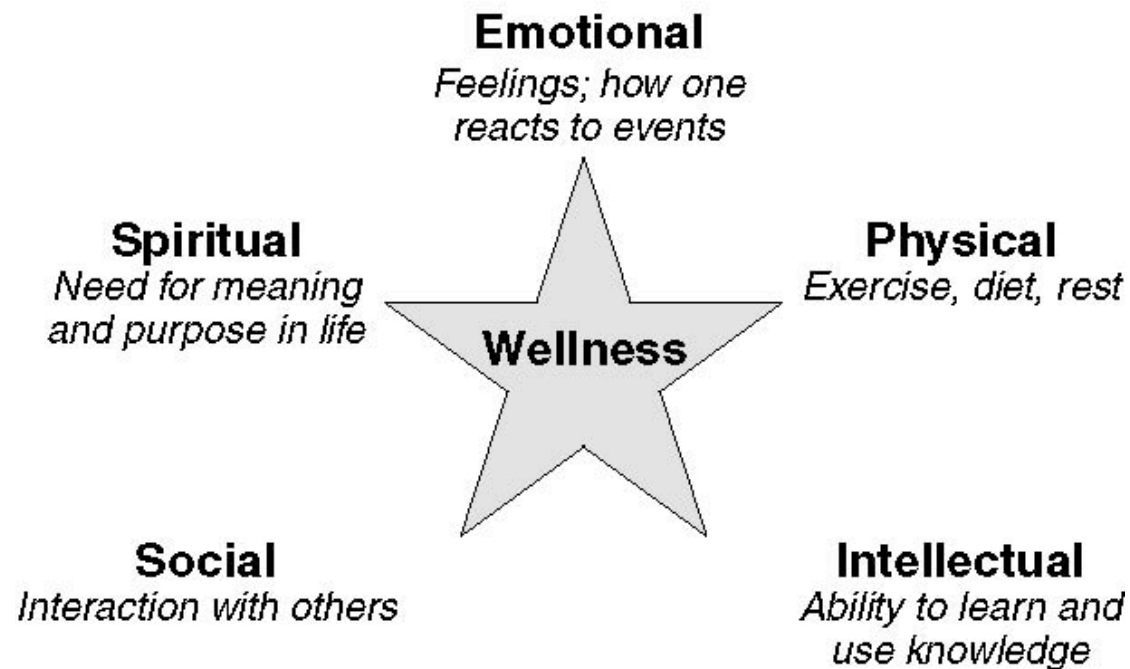
Questions for Discussion

- **Why is wellness important?**
- **How would you rate the overall health of the students in this school? Why?**

Can You Ring the Wellness Bell?



Total Person Concept of Wellness



All 5 dimensions are equally important to the total well-being of the individual.

Stress Reduction and the Relaxation Response*

- **Stress management is a key aspect of wellness.**
- **The relaxation response is a physical state in which heart rate, blood pressure, and muscle tension decrease.**
- **Eliciting the relaxation response can help reduce stress in our lives.**

** Adapted from the Mind Body Medical Institute. Available:
www.mbmi.org/basics/whatis_rresponse_elicitation.asp.*

Eliciting the Relaxation Response

- **Sit quietly in a comfortable position.**
- **Focus on a repeated word or phrase or on the breath.**
- **Disregard everyday thoughts that come to mind.**
- **Stay focused on your word or phrase or on your breath.**

** Adapted from the Mind Body Medical Institute. Available: www.mbmi.org/basics/whatis_rresponse_elicitation.asp.*

A Personal Health Declaration of Independence

I believe that among my inalienable rights are the rights to health, happiness, and a longer life. To secure these rights, I will become more conscious of the whole person that is me. This plan is duly constituted by me and will be reviewed regularly.

I pledge to put into practice, with verve, that which I have written for each area:

Physical _____

Social _____

Emotional _____

Intellectual _____

Spiritual _____

Questions?