

Classroom Management

Final Project

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As a future teacher, some of the most important factors in my classroom management are providing a safe and positive learning environment, establishing a classroom environment that provides opportunity for all students, and maintaining organization and consistency of the classroom. By providing a safe and positive learning environment, it will give students confidence and self-assurance to express themselves inside the classroom. A learning environment in the classroom that provides opportunity for all students, will give equity to all students for them to be able to learn and show their understanding in a way that best suits them. Maintaining organization in a classroom will be the backbone of the environment in the classroom, and best help keep negative actions from occurring.

Furthermore, maintaining organization is heavily supported by establishing rules and procedures. Wong states that “by establishing a class routine, students will assume ownership of their learning.” My classroom management philosophy starts with procedures, and stems off of the procedures I establish. By setting out a set of procedures for the students to complete every day, it gives the students consistency by knowing what they are going to need to do every day. (Wong 2014) Part of my procedure would be to set out the same type of bell-work of self-checking homework right when they get to class. Creating this same bell work every day, will get the students going for the class in a quickly and timely fashion, while also shifting their thinking onto math. It will also give the students consistency for knowing what they will be doing each day right when they get to class, what will be expected when they come to class, and what materials they are required to have when they come to class every day. Moreover, by doing a self grading technique, it will save me a lot of time I would spend on correcting that I can instead use towards planning future lessons and helping students. Additionally, the self

grading will give students an instant feedback of how well they did on the past day's assignment, which will give them the opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of class on any of the questions they got wrong or had trouble with. Furthermore, the time spent on answering questions about the previous assignment will be a great review and introduction for transitioning into the new lesson for the day, because in math you are constantly building off of what was previously learned.

In addition, providing a safe and positive learning environment is crucial for student success. (Marzano 2003). At the base of providing a safe and positive learning environment, I will layout three basic rules as follows; respect others, respect yourself, and respect all property. These three rules, I believe, cover a wide range of area for students to follow. Respecting others will set a rule for protecting students from being physically, mentally, or emotionally harassed or bullied. This can range from not talking while another student is talking, to not physically harming another student; both of which are not tolerated. Respecting yourself means to have pride in yourself and your work, and to always give it your best no matter what. Respecting all property applies to everything inside the classroom and school that is owned by someone else. So, a student must not damage or harm any classroom materials, school materials, or another student's materials.

Furthermore, building off of creating a safe and positive learning environment, will lead the way for a classroom that provides opportunity for every student (Fay and Funk 2010). By establishing the rule of respecting others, it opens up the opportunity for students to express themselves and their knowledge in a way that best suits them. For example, in math, there are many different ways to get to an answer and many different ways to attempt a problem.

Allowing students to demonstrate what they know in a way that suits them best, is giving opportunity to succeed to every student (Fay and Funk 2010). To allow equal opportunity for all students to succeed, setting up a positive learning environment is crucial. For example, some students work best by visuals, some work best by writing and copying notes, and some learn best through auditory reception. So, creating a classroom that can provide a way for all different types of learners to succeed, will ultimately make for a positive and safe learning environment, creating equity inside the classroom.

Moreover, connecting to the students and their families is a very important aspect of the classroom. Having a connection to the students will help aid in their learning process and their reception to the teacher (Fay and Funk 2010). A key factor in connecting to the student is to remember and acknowledge that there are no two students alike. So, getting to know each student gives a great base for creating opportunities for students to learn and later be assessed in a multitude of different ways. Having a classroom where each student is known for their different talents and abilities will then have a wide range of different ways to teach the curriculum. This allows every student to grasp the material and comprehend it. This inclusion classroom management technique enriches the way a teacher provides accommodations and support for the students within the class. For example, one student might learn better through visual learning, while another learns through hands on learning. So, with having a diversified classroom, it allows all students to have a better experience. However, in order to know how a student learns the best and what their strengths and weaknesses are, the teacher needs to build a connection with the students.

Furthermore, it does not just stop at student connection. A teacher needs to be able to build a connection to the parents. The parents are involved in their child's education and life, so being able to make a connection to the parents will help make the classroom an easier place. If there is a disjoint between the teacher and parents, it could cause struggles that spill back into the classroom (Fay and Funk 2010). Student's brains are like sponges, so if a parent is unaware of a teacher's objectives and teaching strategies, it could lead to them getting the wrong idea or impression of the teacher and displaying disapproval of the teacher towards their child. Their child could then come to class as the student with a negative view towards the teacher, making it difficult for the teacher in any aspect, as the result of a parent's impression of the teacher; which could be prevented by lessening the possibility of a miscommunication between teacher and parent.

A great way to help prevent any miscommunication or misconception from the parent, of the teacher, is to make a connection with parents (Morzano 2003). Making a connection with the parents can be best done in three ways; having a before school meet and greet, an updated teacher website, and quarterly reports. By having a meet and greet before the beginning of school, it gives the parents a chance to come and get to know me better as a teacher and understand the objectives and expectations of the classroom before the hustle and hectic time of school starting. Also, it allows the parents ask any questions face-to-face that they may have or let me know any information about their child that I may not have known or could help in the classroom. By keeping an updated teacher page, it will give the parents the needed resources for contacting me, staying up to date on any class activities; as well as being able to review all of the classroom objectives, expectations, and syllabus. With quarterly reports, I

would send home with each student, a summary of how they're doing in the class that their parent/guardian would have to sign and then the student would turn it back into me. This would be a way to cover any gaps of families who may not have attended the meet and greet, don't check my teacher page, or maybe don't even track their child's grades. Ultimately, the quarter reports are a "just to make sure" form.

Further, an important factor in classroom management, is setting up a plan for the first days of class. Having the first few days outlined and structured is important to setting my guidelines, rules, and procedures (Wong 2014). For me as a secondary teacher, having students for only one class period, the first day is the one I would set up a very structured plan where I can layout the rules, procedures, and guidelines in the classroom, and then the days after that is just rehearsing and reinforcing what I explained the first day.

So, for the first day of school, I would already have a premade seating chart created for each class period. I would have the names of each student written on some sort of name tag, so before each new class I would put each students name in the seat based off the seating chart. This way, I don't have to waste any time having the students stand up and then re-seat them in the seating chart. After class begins, I will introduce myself to the students with a quick couple of get-to-know-me facts and handout the class syllabus that would have all the rules and procedures on it. Then I will explain the rules of the classroom, which would only be 1. Respect yourself and others, and 2. Respect property. Following the rules, I will introduce the procedures of the classroom. The procedures I would have them complete are, coming to class every day with the same materials, bell procedure, bathroom procedure, and dismissal procedure.

The bell procedure for my classroom would be to arrive on time, and as soon as a student arrives in class to take out their previous day's assignment and do a self correction. I would have the answers to the previous assignment on the board up front before class begins, so the students can immediately start correcting as soon as they arrive. This bell work will eliminate any wasted time at the beginning of class, while also providing a transition into questions about the assignment, which then can be used as a transition into the new material for the day. Additionally, bell work gives the students consistency in the classroom for what they are to do each day they come to class.

Bathroom procedure if it's high school, I would explain to them as doing a simple silent hand gesture to let me know they're leaving to use the restroom if it's in the middle of a lecture or lesson. And if it's while the students are working or doing an activity, to come up and verbally ask to use the restroom or let me know they're going. If it was a middle school class, I would have the students be more formal, and I would give them a bathroom pass to use, instead of just letting them leave. The bathroom pass however would just be a slip of paper with the time, date and reason for being outside the classroom; that way there isn't one physical object as the pass that just collects germs. Class dismissal procedure would just be to make sure any materials a student had out, are put away and no garbage is left behind, and there is no leaving the classroom until the bell has rung. Lastly I would go over the homework/quiz/testing policy of the classroom. My policy of homework would be to grade only on completion, because the homework in math is essentially practice for the tests and is often the first time the student's attempt the material. Additionally, it would help keep things more organized for me, because I wouldn't have a bunch of loose papers on and around my desk.

Also, with self correcting and completion grading, the students are seeing what problems they're getting wrong and can instantly address them, and still be able to keep their homework paper, making it more organized for them. After the first day, I would give the students little reminders on what to do in terms of procedures, to get them into the habit of performing these procedures until they become automatic and a learned habit for my classroom.

Overall, having a strong classroom management plan is essential for an effective classroom. Additionally, an effective classroom is made up of a safe and positive learning environment, an environment that provides opportunity for all students, and maintaining organization and consistency within the classroom.



Appendix  
Seating Chart

Room 210

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$


## Bibliography

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