

Philosophy of Classroom Management

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President John Adams says that, “There are two types of education. One should teach us how to make a living. The other should teach us how to live.” This is precisely why I decided to become a teacher. As a teacher, I have the responsibility to my students to not only prepare them for the jobs they will one day hold, but also for life. That is no small task, but it is one I will face every time I walk into my classroom. In order for me to prepare my students for their future professions and for life, I must first be able to control my classroom. This can be a daunting task but I believe there are many ways to effectively control my classroom.

The most important thing I can do as a teacher is to let my students know that no matter what may happen, I will always have their back, and I believe in them. I may not always agree with what they are saying or doing, but I will always stand up for their best interest. If my students know that I want what is best for them, they will be motivated to do succeed.

An effective example of this is being done at Shiloh Christian School in Bismarck, ND. Mr. Nate Spiedel, the schools advanced math teacher, is teaching a class for students who struggle with math. Needless to say, this group of students would be hard motivate. Mr. Spiedel realized this and decided to try an out-of-the-box idea to motivate his students. On the first day of school, each student in this class received a Rubik’s Cube. At this point, the class was very confused. He asked them as a whole what kind of people can solve a Rubik’s Cube? The class responded by saying that only smart people can solve a Rubik’s Cube. Mr. Spiedel agreed that only smart people are able to solve a Rubik’s Cube. Then he made a promise to his class that by the end of the year, every one of them would be able to solve the Rubik’s Cube, and thus they would be smart people. Instantly, his entire class knew that he had their backs. This simple gesture allowed him to motivate his entire class and a motivated is a successful class. I hope to motivate my students as well as Mr. Spiedel has motivated his and I will do this by showing them that I have their backs, and that I believe in them.

I will establish positive relationships with all of my students. This is something that has to start on the first day of school. Mr. Perry Lee, director of the Social Studies department at Bismarck Century High School says that, “The most important thing is your students and building

relationships with them.” I will tell my students about my family and hobbies and I will want to know about theirs. Dr. Harry Wong tells educators to tell your students who you really are. This allows you to become someone they can relate to instead of the “robot” teacher who spends all of their time at school. Students are much more likely to want to work for a teacher who they can relate to instead of someone who is only worried about grades. This will help establish a positive relationship with my students and help them grow throughout the school year.

I will make each day of class new and interesting. I have a spontaneous personality and I want that to be a part of my classroom. I will mix things up on a day to day basis. I believe that this is important since it keeps students, and myself, from falling into a rut. It also allows for myself as the teacher to instantly gain the attention of my entire classroom. This is because humans by nature are curious. If something is different, we want to know why. Mixing things up on a random basis will allow me to better control my class as well as keep them interested in the subject material.

This is a technique that I have used and it have proved very effective. I teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Catechism on Wednesday nights. I often will write on the windows instead of the white board. This is because it is something my students are not expecting and as a result of this they are more focused than if I were to write on the board. I have also been known to have class in a different location. The new location is something they are unfamiliar with which peaks their curiosity, and thus their willingness to learn. It also gives my students a much needed break from the traditional classroom setting.

But no matter what I may do as a teacher, I will always have students who misbehave. This is where effective classroom management is most important. Foremost, I will judge my response to the situation at hand by deciding whether or not any of my students are at risk. Student safety is paramount to all other concerns and I will do whatever is necessary to protect my students.

Next, I will use “Love and Logic” to try and help my misbehaving student make the decision that is most beneficial for his or her well-being. I will not tell my students they need to do something unless it is in the interest of their safety or the safety of others. I will simply ask them

what the best option for the current situation is and to try and persuade them to make it. I will also remind my misbehaving student that all actions have consequences. I truly believe that this is the most effective way of controlling a classroom. It is crucial that my students know that I am there for them, regardless of the decisions they may make.

Children just want to be loved. For many children, the only person who is truly there for them is their teacher. It is so important that to me as an educator that I reach each and every student who walks into my classroom. I will not a teacher from eight until the last bell at three. I will be a teacher at all times, 24/7. I will lead by example and strive to reach all of my students. As Texas Special Education teacher Preston Morgan states, "I am enough of a realist to know that I can't reach every student. But I'm enough of an optimist to wake up every morning and try." I too know that I cannot reach all of my students, but I will work day and night trying.

### Works Cited

- [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u086rr7SRso>
- Mr. Perry Lee, Social Studies teacher, Bismarck Century High School
- Mr. Nate Spiedel, Math teacher, Shiloh Christian School
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