What is Classroom Management?

*Classroom management refers to all of the things a teacher does to organize student space, time, and materials to foster student involvement and cooperation in the classroom and to establish a productive working environment.

Jacob S. Kounin

- Educational theorist
- One of the first to study classroom management in the 1970’s
- Focused on preventive discipline techniques & strategies designed to prevent occurrence problems
- Believes that good classroom management depends on effective lesson management

Characteristics of a well-managed classroom

- Students deeply involved in their work
- Students know what is expected of them
- Students are generally successful
- Little wasted time, disruption, and confusion
- Classroom climate is work oriented, relaxed, and positive
Importance of Good Communication

- Teachers who communicate effectively with students have better results in managing their students.
- Communication with parents is also essential.
  - Students' home environment can either foster good study skills and appropriate classroom behavior or undermine the lessons you are working to get across.
- Ways you can improve your communication skills: talking to other teachers, listen to yourself on tape, take a course, practice in a mirror.

Responding to Student Behavior

- "I" Messages: a clear, direct, assertive statement about exactly what a student did that constitutes misbehaving, how the misbehavior affects the teacher's ability to teach, and how teacher feels about misbehavior.
  - Does not immediately demand or require change in behavior on the part of the student.
  - GOAL of "I" message: to effect a voluntary change in the student’s behavior by appealing to the student’s conscience and desire to do the right thing.
Who Owns the Problem?

**When Student Owns the Problem-**
- **Active Listening** - consists of allotting the time to listen to a student in an active and concerned manner, encouraging the student to state the problem fully.
- **Paraphrase Rule** - designed to promote accurate communication. Summarization of what the other person said.

**When the Teacher Owns the Problem**
- **No-Lose Method** - The concept behind the no-lose method is that resolving conflicts will be easier and more productive if neither you nor the student feel you are losing.

Proactive Classroom Management

Organize the classroom in a way to prevent problems from occurring:
- Structure the classroom
- Post classroom rules
- Have class wide behavior management plan in place from the beginning of the year
- Prepare the lessons to avoid “down-time” and extended periods of independent work
How Effective Teachers Manage Their Students

- Be Well Prepared
- "With-it-ness"
- Coping with Numerous Situations
- Creating Momentum and Smooth Transitions
- Involving Every Student
- Generating Enthusiasm
- Criticizing Students Constructively
- Initially Work with the Whole Group

Classroom Structure

FRONT

FRONT
Encouraging Good Behavior: Using Reinforcement Effectively

- Students want attention
  - Give them attention for good behavior
  - Do NOT give them attention for inappropriate behavior

- Social Reinforcement
  - Praise, Smiles

- Material Reinforcement
  - Certificates/Notes home, Class party

- Edible Reinforcement
  - Candy, juice, etc…

Why establish classroom rules?

- Rules are the backbone of effective behavior management in the classroom.
- Rules communicate your expectations to the students.
- Rules provide a basis for teachers to catch students “being good”.

Who should select the rules?

- The teacher should select the rules *before* the first day of class.
- Students should not select their own rules; however, there should be a structured procedure for students to question the rules.

Why students shouldn’t select classroom rules:

- Student-selected rules tend to be more strict than teacher selected rules.
- When self-selecting rules, students tend to be overly punitive.
- Students often generate too many rules and the rules tend to be non-specific.
- Some students may not want to follow rules selected by other students.
Characteristics of Good Rules

- The number of rules should be kept to a minimum. About five rules is best.
- The wording of rules should be simple – pictures may help younger students.
- Rules should be stated positively: use Do instead of Don’t.
- Rules must be written in specific and observable terms. Don’t leave room for interpretation!
- Always include a compliance rule.

Examples of Rules:

- Inappropriate Rules:
  - Be responsible
  - Pay attention
  - Respect others
  - Do your best
  - Don’t speak out of turn

- Appropriate Rules:
  - Be on time for class
  - Do what your teacher asks immediately
  - Keep your hands, feet, and, objects to yourself
  - Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
Enforcing Good Rules

- Rules should be publicly posted in a prominent place.
- Following the rules must be tied to consequences.
  - What will happen when the students follow the rules?
  - What will happen when the students don't follow the rules?
- Always be consistent.

How to teach rules to students:

- Post the rules before the beginning of the first class.
- At the beginning of the first class:
  - Introduce the rules to the students.
  - Explain what will happen when the rules are followed and when the rules are not followed.
  - Allow students time to practice following the rules and provide feedback.
  - Praise as many students as you can for following the rules throughout the class.
Teaching students the rules

On subsequent days of class:
- Quickly review all the rules or highlight one rule to review.
- Allow time at the beginning of each class for any student to question the fairness or utility of any rule; DO NOT allow students to question rules during any other time!
- Continue to catch students following the rules and reward them.

Tips for success

- Implement rules consistently for all students.
- Focus on positive rather than negative behavior.
- Review the rules periodically, especially after breaks and during periods of problem behavior.
Classroom Rules

1. ___________________________  Be Positive
   ![Smiley Face]

2. ___________________________  Only 5
   ![5 Apple]

3. ___________________________  Observable
   ![Eyeball]

4. ___________________________

5. ___________________________

Classroom Behavior Management Plans

- Football Game
- Classroom Noise Traffic
- Light
- Respectful Classroom
- Talk tickets
- Mystery Motivator
- “Caught Being Good”
- Various Token Economies
- Lottery with or without response cost
- Chart Moves