

Philosophy of Classroom Management

Each child represents a unique individual of whose learning style is no exception. No one student learns the same way providing us as educators the chance to recognize diversity as well as set the foundation in creating a positive learning environment for all students. It is imperative that we as teachers create a safe and accepting learning environment that fosters student's growth and development in all of their academic pursuits. Such a classroom is created through student's input and participation. The classroom is a place for our students and as such should represent them.

I am a firm believer in group work to promote cooperation, multiple viewpoints and student centered learning. I feel group work can be most effective when base groups are established in the beginning of the year. Long-term groups give students a chance to feel comfortable in expressing their opinions and beliefs. It also gives the students opportunities to establish strong peer ships and interpersonal skills. In addition to base groups I believe in incorporating informal grouping into the curriculum. Informal groups give students the ability to work with students outside their comfort zone that may offer to be valuable resources in their learning. Students learn responsibilities and take on roles in their groups to complete tasks together. These skills can be applied outside the classroom and carried with them throughout their life.

In order to create a safe and accepting environment that fosters group work and student centered learning it is important to implement a good management program into your classroom. I feel most comfortable with a preventative approach in which rules and consequences are made clear from the beginning of the year. It is important that the students are aware of what is expected of them. Likewise, the teacher should not assume that all students are familiar with such rules and should teach and model accordingly. Social skills must be taught, modeled and practiced for all students to understand them. It is also crucial the students have input in the class rules and consequences on the first day of school as they are set forth. This gives the students a sense of ownership of their guidelines and discourages them from acting against them.

It is unrealistic to think that simply helping to create a rule will deter a student from breaking it and therefore disciplinary strategies must be upheld. I believe the most important thing to remember when implementing a discipline system in the classroom is to be consistent. Just as students need to know what type of behavior is expected of them, they also need to know what kind of behavior they can expect from their teacher when the rule is broken. I am a strong proponent of disciplining with dignity not through public embarrassment. When possible a student should be reprimanded in private and in all cases dignity should be upheld.