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Philosophy Artifact

My Classroom Relationships Philosophy

“All kids need to know that their lives have value and they can be successful. They need to believe their efforts can make a real difference in their lives.” – Allen Mendler. My elementary school classroom will reflect Mendler’s idea that students need to feel that their lives have value and that they have control over their education. My classroom will be welcoming and I will create a community in which my students feel safe and comfortable to voice their opinions, be a part of something greater and make a difference in their own lives. My goals for managing my classroom are to teach my students beyond reading and math, to help them succeed in the real world.

Proactive: It is essential to the well being of the class to be on top of things in order to prevent behavior problems from arising.

- I will prepare ahead of time and even be over prepared so that there isn’t time for misbehavior.
- I will get to know my students in order to get to the root of problems and stop them before they escalate.
- My classroom will be arranged in a way that ensures I can see all of my students and what they are doing at all times.
- I will display “withitness”, which is being aware of everything that is going on in the classroom.
- Students will be assigned groups to work with based on personalities and strengths and weaknesses they have academically to maximize time on task.

Distracting Behaviors: These behaviors are ones that disrupt the lesson and take the attention of the students' away from the teacher. Using appropriate reactions and strategies to deal with these behaviors will benefit the class as a whole.

- I am going to go beyond instant satisfactions and use strategies to get long lasting effects.

These strategies include

- Teaching my students to be responsible for their own behaviors
 - Using positive reinforcement and praise
 - Adapting my instructions to meet student needs
 - Getting to know my students and the reasons why they are being distracting.
- Due to the fact that my room will be set up in a way that I can easily see and access all students, I will use the power of proximity to get a distracting student back on task by simply walking close to his or her desk.
 - I will change the tone of my voice if my whole class is being distracting to let them know I mean business.

Controlling Behaviors: The best way to keep the classroom calm and inviting is to keep my mood calm and inviting by not reacting emotionally to "button pushers" in my class.

- I am going to control my emotional reactions.
- Instead of making my students do things I will give them opportunities to make responsible choices about their behaviors.
- To add to the community feel of my classroom I will use humor when appropriate to redirect controlling behaviors. This will maintain respect with my students.

- When a student is pushing my buttons I will ask the student to speak with me after class about what happened to help both parties involved in the situation cool down before coming up with a consequence.

Angry/Violent Behaviors: Due to the seriousness and danger of violent misbehaviors I will use strategies to not only keep my temper at an acceptable level but do the same for my students.

- I will keep my reactions under control to avoid lashing out at a student and prompting a violent situation.
- Keeping in contact with parents and administration will help me deal with angry or violent students that are out of my control.
- The chill out corner will be a place that my students can go to collect themselves after a problem has arisen.
- Giving my students choices is very important to their well being, so therefore I will always give them the choice to make a better decision than they did before.

My classroom is going to be one where my students and I are always on the same page. It will be professional as well as warm, because the balance of those is essential to the vibe my students will receive. Positive vibes will promote positive behavior. I can only hope that as I continue my education and work more with children that I will discover if these strategies will work for me as a future educator.