

Running Head: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Classroom Management Plan: For all diverse learners.

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Teaching is a learning process. Being an effective teacher includes not only knowing how to present a concept and having high expectations for your students, but also being able to manage a classroom. Wong and Wong stated, “The fact that you have a college degree, doesn’t make you a teacher; the first thing you need to know is how to manage a classroom full of students and a whole host of other things” (2005, p. 83-84). It is obvious that both cooperation from the students and the teachers is needed to maintain a positive learning environment in a classroom. There are various theorists that offer great strategies and philosophies on positive behavior that can be implemented in a classroom.

As a future secondary educator I would like to apply practices from one of my preferred theorists Haim Ginott. Ginott is an idealistic teacher that wanted to help teachers and parents socialize with children. According to Haim Ginott congruent communication between the teacher and the student is a great way to communicate with students because it increases self-esteem and decreases conflict. If the student feels like they cannot communicate with the teacher they are most likely going to feel excluded from the classroom. As educators it is our duty to make every student feel included and welcome. This will allow the student to feel comfortable, confident, and engaged with their classmates and the teacher. For that reason it is very important, like Wong stated, on the first day of school to, “have a warm, positive attitude and positive expectations that all students will succeed” (2005, p. 93). At secondary level, teachers need to listen and speak to their students in an empathetic manner; so the students don’t feel insulted and rebel towards the situation or problem. As educators it is truly important to take into consideration the changes adolescents go through because that is the age where they are exploring and trying to figure out who they are. Ginott also states that by delivering “sane” messages it will allow the student to maintain calm and reflect about what they did wrong in a

positive manner (1993, p. 83). It is obvious that at high school level, students mature at different ages. In view of that, teachers need to consider that not all the students' reaction will be the same when a student gets punished for bad behavior. In addition, positive communication by the teacher strengthens self-concept of students which will produce better classroom discipline (Micheletti).

Moreover, Carol Cummings explains, "Teachers need to anticipate what skills and work habits students need so that they can demonstrate high levels of performance" (2000, p.3). Showing the students you are prepared for class and ready to provide for them is one of the best ways to prove classroom management. In my past experiences I have had the chance to observe classrooms where the teacher is ill and was not fully prepared. The students took advantage of the situation and became disruptive and were not collaborating. Wong stated, "Teachers who are ready, maximize student learning and minimize student behavior" (2005, p.91). It is very clear that a good relationship from teacher to student will result in good terms. Once the teacher and the student have built that relationship students tend to follow rules, procedures, and will show good behavior. At times it might even seem like the students do not want to disappoint the teacher when they have such great connection. Like Marzano stated, not only should the teacher be friendly, caring, and helpful but should also set standards, listen, and maintain control (Marzano et al., 2003 p. 44). Students need to understand that just because they have a good relationship with the teacher it doesn't mean they are allowed to get away with things. It is extremely important that teachers are aware of what kind of problematic behavior is going on in the classroom to prevent it from getting bigger. For that reason it is important to teach the students how to listen and be consistent with the rules during the first month of school (Cummings et al., 2000 p.34). If the teacher is not consistent with classroom rules and

procedures students will take over the class. Therefore, consistency especially at secondary level is severely important because we want to build that respect between the students and the teacher.

In accordance with Ginott, “the essence of discipline is finding effective alternatives to punishment because punishing a child is to enrage them and make them uneducable,” (Ginott et al., 1993, p. 147,148). As I mentioned earlier Ginott believed that discipline problems could be prevented mainly by patient action on the part of the teacher. For example, when there is a problem the teacher should focus on the problem not the student. I agree with Ginott for the reason that most of the time teachers tend focus on the students and their attitude rather than focusing on why they are behaving a certain way. Cummings explained that to better understand certain behaviors in classrooms teachers need to be aware of the students needs (2000 p.122). For example, some students might misbehave because they do not feel included or might have a special need like a learning disability. For that reason I am a strong advocate of cooperative learning and incorporating Gardener's multiple intelligences due to the different learning styles. It is important to discover each one of the students learning style at the beginning of the school year so we can learn how to better prepare for our lessons. I feel like these strategies will meet our student's needs and will allow them to feel more confident and motivated in their studies. As well as getting to know the students different cultural backgrounds, parenting styles, and types of previous schooling. This will allow the English language learners to feel belonged and confident. Therefore, talking about different cultures and doing weekly events is a great way to teach students how to respect each other's cultures, traditions, and beliefs.

Furthermore, I am optimistic and anxious about the future. Setting my goals and objectives will allow me to reflect and make improvements. Committing myself to connect with each individual in my classroom as well as focusing on the problem not the student will allow

me to better provide for my students. Helping them to develop their independence and sense of responsibility is also important. In addition, showing them kindness and respect students will allow them to reflect on their behavior. Overall, I truly believe Ginott's model is very effective in helping teachers establish positive communication with their students. Therefore applying some of his strategies in my classroom will allow me to have a safe and positive learning environment.

References

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