

Course Syllabus

Title

Engaged Learners: Effective Classroom Management Strategies for All

Target Audience

This course is intended for K12 educators.

Prerequisites

To successfully participate and complete the assignments in this course, the learner must:

- Have experience using information and communication technology (e.g. Internet, word processors, spreadsheets, multimedia authoring tools) in a K-12 classroom
- Have taken online courses.

Course Description

This five-week online course gives an overview of the components of classroom management, including managing the environment, student behavior, instruction, student productivity, and cultural diversity.

Overview

Every teacher dreams of having the perfect classroom where every student enjoys learning, scores high on standardized tests, and respects the teacher. Dream world? Maybe, but some teachers do manage to run a classroom effectively and efficiently, while others seem to constantly struggle with behavior problems that keep them from teaching their students.

The difference lies in classroom management. Today's research shows more and more that classroom management has the greatest effect on student achievement (Marzano, "The Key to Classroom Management." Educational Leadership, September, 2003). Good classroom managers plan everything from the first day of school - from the time the opening bell rings to the closing bell. They are constantly watching and anticipating situations that might cause problems and they are prepared to handle situations on their own. They have rules, procedures, and consequences for breaking the rules, which they publicize to their students. And they respect the worth and individuality of every student they teach.

Part of being a good teacher is art - knowing your content area and being willing to listen to your instincts about what to do in the classroom. But there is also a science to being a teacher. You can learn strategies that will help you be a better classroom manager. That's what this course is all about. Whether you are a new teacher or an experienced teacher who just wants to reaffirm what you've learned before, this course will share strategies that will help you to be a better classroom manager.

Objectives

Participants will:

- Learn about the elements of successful classroom management.
- Recognize what makes an effective teacher.
- Identify characteristics and strategies for creating a positive environment.
- Create a lesson plan that manages time effectively and actively engages students.

- Identify learning styles and teaching styles and how they affect classroom management.
- Identify strategies for dealing with behavior problems.

Online Learner Expectations

Each session will have readings, an activity for you to complete within the week, and a discussion board. Log in at least three times a week, the first time early in the week. Be sure to post your work well before the end of the session. It is our estimate that each week's assignments should take roughly two hours to complete. Although you are not required to read everything in the course links, the more you read, the more you will benefit from the information.

The discussion board is a critical part of the online learning experience because active discussion is what fosters the best learning environment. You are encouraged to participate in the discussion board as much as you can. Most discussion board assignments call for response, whether silent rumination or actual written commenting-so give your peers time to think and write by posting as early as you can during the week. Post thoughtful comments. Simply posting 'I disagree' with no explanation doesn't help anyone! Ask yourself, "How can I move this discussion and everyone's understanding forward with my response?" and "What are others saying that is helping me move forward?" Acknowledge these building blocks for your thinking.

Respond to the comments of others respectfully. Please refer to Netiquette for additional guidelines.

Notify your Instructor if you will be gone for any extended time.

Session Schedule:

The course has 5 sessions, with each session starting on Monday and ending on Sunday night.

Session 1: What is an Effective Teacher?

Session 2: How do I set the right tone starting on the first day of school?

Session 3: How do I keep everything running smoothly?

Session 4: How do I keep my students actively engaged?

Session 5: What do I do when students misbehave?

Performance Assessment

Your instructor will assess your performance using the following Assessment Rubric. In order to receive credit for this course, you must demonstrate a satisfactory level of competence for the course, which means a C average or better, and you must also complete the lesson plan project.

A= 100-90%

B= 89 - 80%

C= 79-70%

You will receive feedback for each week's work, usually in narrative form through email. In addition, you can always go to "Grades" to monitor your progress. If you have questions about your participation, please communicate with your instructor.

| Assignment | Unsatisfactory = 1 pt. | Satisfactory = 2 pts. | Exemplary = 2.5 pts. |
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| Session Activity | The Learner does not show any indication of having read any of the articles in the session. There is no evidence of realistic application of what was learned. May not have covered all parts of the assignment. | Although the topic is covered, the strategies or the application are either minimal or lacking in depth and they may not be realistic. This may also be given for an assignment that is turned in late. | The activity is submitted on time. The learner completes all parts of the assignment and includes references to the readings and several specific strategies that can be realistically applied in the classroom. |
| Discussion Board | Learner posts only a single entry, with no interaction with other learners' postings evident. | Learner's postings meet the minimum of 3 (one original thread answering the question and two responses to peers) but they do not go beyond the required scope or are all posted on the same day. | Learner's postings meet the objectives for the assignment in ways that demonstrate understanding, being reflective, and extending beyond the assignment. There are more than 3 postings and they are posted throughout the week, rather than on one day only. |