

Reflection of Management

Good classroom management is one of the most vital ingredients to a functioning classroom environment. The classroom management skills that I have been able to start developing during my internship have let me put the knowledge from my UMW coursework into action. I have learned that you must be consistent, and it is important to set up expectations early. I have also learned that my favorite way to correct student behaviors when they arise is to focus on the positives.

Consistency is one of the key areas in setting up a classroom management style. Students will feel less anxious about coming into situations where they already know what to expect. Consistency in my internship classroom has happened between me and my mentor teacher and between our classroom and the rest of the school. As I have started to take over from my mentor teacher, we have made sure to keep the rules and expectations the same no matter who is teaching. As a result, our students know what they are expected to do no matter who is teaching. I also make sure to enforce school-wide rules in our classroom. The one that is most difficult to enforce is the school's technology policy. Students often break the technology policy by being on their phones or their headphones inappropriately. To keep consistency between my classroom and the rest of the school I always make sure to follow the school's discipline when it comes to technology.

Setting expectations early is extremely important for management. Expectations for behavior often have to be reinforced when needed. I also make sure to set expectations for assignments. When I introduce assignments to students, we often go over success criteria, so students know what they need to be successful. We also go over what the classroom should look and sound like while students are working. Setting expectations also includes setting and

following through on consequences. When students get too loud during independent work, they know that they will have to complete the work in silence. Following through on these consequences when expectations are not met further solidifies expectations.

When I have to address student behavior, I like to do so by focusing on the positive. I think that telling students when they are making progress lets them know that the good things do not go unnoticed. I think that often students with frequent behaviors can feel like teachers focus on the negative. Because of this, I like to use positive behavioral supports. I have several students who are on behavior plans that include them earning points for good behavior. One student, in particular, is on a behavioral plan like this that was first put in place in early January. Since he has been put on the plan, I have been able to see him improve drastically. It is great to be able to tell him how much I think he has improved. The school that I am interning at also uses tickets as a school-wide reward system. I love handing out these tickets when students are doing what they are supposed to. It makes other students change their behavior without me having to say anything to them. It makes my day when I give a ticket to a student who has not gotten one before. They get so excited!

The importance of classroom management cannot be overstated in the classroom, but it is one of the hardest skills to perfect. My internship has allowed me to put into practice what I learned about in my university classes. Through this process, I have found the importance of consistency, setting expectations, and focusing on the positive when possible.