Notes on Classroom Management

Anything in red is applicable to both teaching in general and math camp.

What is Classroom Management and Why is it Important?

Definition: Classroom management refers to all of the things a teacher does to organize students, space, time, and materials so that student learning can take place.

In a study reviewing 11,000 pieces of research that spanned 50 years, three researchers determined that there are 28 factors that influence student learning and ranked them from most to least influential. The most important factor governing student learning was classroom management.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The first day of school is the most important day of the school year. Effective classroom management practices must begin on the first day of school.[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Effective teachers manage their classrooms; ineffective teachers discipline their classrooms.”

How to Have a Well-Managed Classroom

-The most important thing a teacher can provide during the first week of school is consistency. Classroom practices and procedures must be predictable and consistent.

-On the first day of school, have students fill out an index card with information such as their preferred name, other responsibilities, and previous math courses they’ve taken so you have an idea of who makes up your class.

-Always use students’ names when talking to them. LEARN NAMES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

-Always write the day’s goals on the board, tell students what they are, and try to refer back to them during the lesson.[[3]](#footnote-3)

-Phrasing is important! For example:

-Does everyone have a pair of scissors? Vs. Who doesn’t have a pair of scissors?

-It is much easier to start the term with very strict rules and then relax them later in the term, than to start the term very relaxed and then try to impose rules and order later in the term.

How to Introduce Yourself to Your Class

-Have the class name/number and your name displayed in a place where students can easily see it as they walk in so they can tell if they’re in the right room.

-Introduce yourself to each student as they come in.

-What you do on the first day may well determine how much respect and success you will have for the rest of the term.

-Two of the first things you should tell the class on the first day are your name, how it’s spelled and pronounced, and your expectations for the class.

-7 things students want to know on the first day of school:

-Am I in the right room?

-Where am I supposed to sit?

-What are the rules in this classroom?

-What will I be doing this term?

-How will I be graded?

-Who is the teacher as a person?

-Will the teacher treat me as a human being?

How to Have Students Follow Classroom Procedures

-The vast majority of the behavior problems in the classroom are caused by the failure of students to follow procedures and routines.

-You should have procedures for anything you want to have happen in an organized way. For example:

-The start of class.

-The end of class.

-How students should behave during activities other than lecture.

-How students should behave to attract your attention for help.

-How to get students’ attention.

-For students to follow procedures you need to tell them what the procedures are and then practice them.

\*These last two sections are mainly for use during math camp.\*

How to Have Your Classroom Ready

-Have all materials ready by the time class starts. For example if everyone will need a pair of scissors, make sure there’s already a pair at each of the desks.

-Start class on time.

-Communicate clear procedures of participation, i.e. how students are expected to work on a particular assignment and what they should do if they finish early.

-Prepare the floor space so that:

-all students can see you and any of the boards you plan to use.

-you can see all students

-you can easily walk between desks.

How to Arrange and Assign Seating

-The purpose of arranging seats is to accomplish classroom tasks. If you’re planning to have the students discuss things in small groups, the desks should be arranged differently than if you’re planning to give a lecture.

-Make sure no students have their backs to you.

-Have assigned seats posted when students come in, this makes it easy for students to know where they should be. DO NOT let students sit wherever they want and then have them get up and move, this both wastes time and tends to make students complain.

-Assigning seats also makes it easier to learn names and helps prevent misbehavior by separating problem students.

1. http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec93/vol51/num04/Synthesis-of-Research-~-What-Helps-Students-Learn%C2%A2.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed\_lead/el\_198505\_brooks.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://cusd.capousd.org/edusupport/Articles/Classroom%20Assessment.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)