

Standard 5

Artifact: Classroom Management Plan

Date Experienced Completed: Spring 2010

Description: My artifact is my Classroom Management Plan created in the Spring of 2010. This artifact will show the purpose and philosophy of how I plan to manage my classroom

Wisconsin Teacher Standard Alignment: I believe that this experience aligns with standard five - The teacher uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self motivation.

My classroom management plan reflects what I feel is most important in creating an atmosphere of respect, success and cooperation. By giving students these guides to help them be successful in my classroom allows more free time to explore their learning. They know what is expected of them, of their peers, and of me. The classroom will be a safe learning environment, built to ensure academic success and cooperation. All students are expected to participate and ensure respect for themselves and others, and reach their full potential as future citizens. Letting the students know at the beginning that my classroom is a learning environment, not only individually but also through group interactions is important. The students need to feel safe to be free to learn what is planned for that day.

Having rules to begin the day allows me to start the class on time and orderly. Expecting the students to be in their seats, ready to work when the bell rings eliminates the few minutes to settle the students down to start class. Making sure they respect themselves as well as others, and their property is important to maintaining a positive atmosphere for everyone. And of course completing any class work and homework on time allows for self motivation to complete assignments.

By listing both positive and negative consequences when the listed rules are engaged gives the student the opportunity to choose an appropriate path. The student clearly sees the results of following or not following the guidelines, and knows what to expect. Positive consequences to following rules can include praises, extra free time, special privileges, extra computer time, passes to replace a homework assignment and field trips. Negative consequences can include reminders, visits after class, lunch detentions, office and parental referrals. Keeping the negative consequences connected to the number of infractions, logically associating them to the types of infractions and keeping them educational not vindictive is important. Negative and positive consequences should help the students to become self-motivated to learn, and respect others.

Having a crisis plan in place, although hoping to never use one, gives me a reference to go to when it arises. Having both a behavioral and medical plan is a great tool to keep handy when emergencies arise.

The classroom rules are permanent, however the students may feel the need to add/modify some additional guidelines. Periodically we can review the rules the students adopted to see if they need modifications. This helps the students see how important certain issues are, and can also set both positive and negative consequences to reach their intended goals with their guidelines. This will help create a democratic atmosphere, and ensure the students participation in both following and recommending guidelines.

Finally by letting the parents know the expectations of my classroom prior to the start of school allows the parents time to ask questions and give input and discuss it with their child. This shows that classroom management is a team effort for the student, his/her family, and me.

UW - Platteville School of Education Knowledge, Skill and Disposition Statement Alignment: This experience best aligns with KSD2.c, Manages classroom procedures. The candidate values and has the ability to manage self-motivated students and instructional groups who are productively and independently working at all times with classroom transitions and routines occurring smoothly. The teacher, volunteers, paraprofessionals and students share the responsibility for the classroom environment.

Having a posted classroom management plan with clear and precise rules and expectations, allows the student to know what is expected of them in my classroom. Knowing those expectations frees the students up to concentrate on their learning instead of misbehaviors. Not only having posted rules, but also following up with both the positive and negative consequences outlined in the plan helps to enforce my classroom objectives. Having a good classroom management plan can help eliminate most unwanted behaviors from occurring in the first place or to stop them at the beginning.

Posting the classroom expectations, and following through with them daily will also allow those who help in my classroom as well. The students will know what is expected of them no matter who is in charge of the classroom that day. Allowing students to provide feedback and have input on the classroom guidelines will ensure the students have a vested interest in how their classroom environment is operated.

Ensuring respect for both the individuals, their space and property allows the students to work together efficiently because they can concentrate on their learning and know that they will be respected in their choices and their decisions as they work together. Classroom management is about creating a positive atmosphere for the students to grow and thrive.

This experience also aligns with:

KSD3.a Communicates Clearly and Accurately

KSD2.d Manages Student Behavior

What I learned about teaching/learning from this experience: I learned from this experience how hard it can be to come up with a classroom management plan that is clear and concise. I learned that not everything will be included the first time around and I may have to make modifications as the need arises. By having just a few concrete rules that must be followed and are not negotiable creates a building block on which students can build additional guidelines they would like to see apply to their classroom. The rules should not just include about being in your seat, and having your homework done, but also about respect for oneself, and for others. The classroom is a social atmosphere and as the organizer of the classroom it is my duty to guide the students in proper social behavior as well as be the director of the education.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator as a result of this experience/artifact: I learned as a prospective educator that I will have to be flexible, yet firm. Although a classroom management plan is a guide for me to follow, it will be useless unless I follow through with what is outlined in the plan. I will need to make sure I encourage positive behavior with the consequences outlined in my classroom management plan, and also try to deter unwanted behavior with the negative consequences outlined. As an educator I am the guide the students will follow, and I must show respect for myself and others, so the students can also model that behavior in themselves. Being consistent is another factor in creating positive classroom environment. I must follow the plan daily, and if modifications are needed I must be clear in my expectations of the students and their behaviors and actions with those changes. My role as an educator is not just to educate my students in their science lessons, but also promote positive social interactions, and encouraging individual self-esteem.