

Nuggets for New Teachers Classroom Management

Happy New Year and welcome back! Hope you had a restful holiday season and that you were able to take advantage of this time to spend it with family and friends.

For some of you, the return to class in January may be very similar to the beginning of the school year in September. Some of your students may have “forgotten” what is expected of them in the classroom. They may need to be “re-trained”. Do not fret!! We know that the basis of classroom management is consistency. Establishing procedures and routines should not take as long as it did at the beginning of the school year.

The Ten Commandments of Classroom Management

1. Thou shall be prepared and ready.
2. Thou shall establish clear expectations and consequences.
3. Thou shall establish clear learning goals.
4. Thou shall exhibit assertive behaviour.
5. Thou shall provide flexible learning goals.
6. Thou shall take a personal interest in students.
7. Thou shall model equitable and positive classroom interactions.
8. Thou shall model positive conflict resolution skills.
9. Thou shall be aware of high-needs students.
10. Thou shall not leave relationships to chance.

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN MY CLASSROOM IN JANUARY?

- ✓ I will begin the new calendar year prepared, with a clear vision. I know what my students need and will have strategies in place to address these needs. If I am unsure of next steps, I will approach my mentor, speak to my principal or contact a Special Assignment Teacher to help me meet the needs of my students.
- ✓ I will review procedures in my classroom, give students the opportunity to rehearse them and reinforce them when followed correctly.
- ✓ I will show an interest in how my students spent their holidays - ask them what they did, who they saw. I will also share with them what I did. This will show them that I am genuinely interested in their lives and that I am also human, sharing some of the same interests.

Web sites you may wish to consult:

www.classroommanagement.com This is an e-learning course based on the book *The First Days of School* (Harry & Rosemary Wong)

www.educationoasis.com/instruction/classroom_management.htm

www.newteachersnwt.ca/professional_advice3.html

