Sherry Bradstreet

July 31, 2017

Climate Change for Teachers and Students

Assignment #13: Create and Implement a lesson: “Adapt a Lesson” and “Write an Article Concerning Noteworthy Success as a Teacher with a Student”

Part 2 of 2: Article Concerning Noteworthy Success as a Teacher with a Student

In order for a student to be successful in school he/she must be provided with a fun and engaging atmosphere that is safe, respectful, honest, and trustworthy. Students provided with these four necessities tend to have a positive attitude towards classmates, teachers, the school, and learning in general. Their social and independent behavior is one of co-operation and willingness to work together in order to make their whole school experience better. They are excited for school and perform to the best of their ability throughout the entire day. This is my seventh year as a second grade teacher and my main goal is that each student who enters my classroom leaves my classroom with more knowledge, confidence, and love for learning, than when he/she first entered.

The environment in which we are surrounded by plays a great deal on our attitudes and how we feel throughout the day. Before a student can begin to learn, he/she must first feel safe within their learning environment. Classrooms must be welcoming, supportive, and encouraging. Who would want to go into a room in which there is no happiness or laughter? I welcome my students every morning in the hallway at the door with a smile. This short amount of time enables me to assess how my students’ morning has begun. It’s a quick way for a teacher to communicate to his/her students that they care about them. For example, if I notice Amy is extremely bubbly I might say, “Good Morning Amy, I’m so happy to see your bright smile this morning,” or if I see Joe comes in with a frown I might say, “Good Morning Joe, you look like you have something on your mind. Would you like to talk about it?” If Joe were to want to talk, I would take the few minutes to lend an ear so he knows just how important he is to me. If Joe were to say no then I would respect that by saying, “Ok, if you change your mind and want to talk later, I am here for you.” This leaves the door open for Joe to talk at a later time if he so desires. I think too many times we tend to forget, like ourselves, students have a life outside the school environment.

Within the learning environment students need to know it is safe to make mistakes. Students must learn to be respectful to both themselves and others. When we teach our students how to encourage one another and build each other up, everyone wins. Name calling, snide remarks, laughing at one another ends as students recognize the feeling of success for themselves and their peers as they build each other up. I teach my students the golden rule, “Treat others the way you want to be treated,” and reiterate it daily. I play a video for my students called *RESPECT* by the Fearless Lions, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGuT9-_Y5J4>. This is a great YouTube video that is made and performed by students! My students recognize through other kids how important it is to respect one another.

Through the *RESPECT* video students not only recognize how important behavior is, but also that they have a voice. Regardless of their age students need to be able to have a voice. By teaching respect we enable our students to voice their agreements, disagreements, or concerns in a way that is respectful to all. I enable my students to tell me if they do not care for, understand, or are confused about something I am doing as their teacher as long as they state it in a respectful manner. This enables two fabulous forms of communication: 1. my students feel safe and know that they can speak without being reprimanded for ideas I may not agree with, and 2. it enables me to help them understand why I am doing what I am doing. We must teach our students to understand that not everyone will agree all the time and that this is ok. Keep in mind this form of communication is ALL done with respectful voices, words, and thoughtfulness of others’ feelings.

When a teacher provides a classroom built on respect, trust, honesty, and support, students can grow and learn successfully.