

Classroom Management Philosophy

Section 1: Vision

The most important aspect of a classroom are the relationships built between the teacher and the students. The three principles that contribute the most to respect and trust in teacher-student relationships are procedures, communication, and room arrangement. Students, especially in a music classroom will need to learn the desired behaviors for class. Procedures allow for students to understand the expectations, as well as know consequences for undesirable behaviors. Students should be able to follow a routine throughout the year, which would help to establish good teacher-student relationships that revolve around trust in the classroom. Teachers focused on building good teacher-student relationships would be sure to practice clear communication that gives students expectations for each assignment, activity, concert, etc, and therefore, help establish trust between the students and teacher. Lastly, room arrangement helps to establish structure which can help in the execution of procedures and instruction to students.

Section 2: Classroom procedures

Classroom procedures are a set of expectations that are learned and practiced. Classroom procedures are the most important management technique that a teacher employs, this is especially true in a music classroom. At the beginning of every orchestra class there are a lot of things that need to happen before instruction can begin. Students

need to unpack and set-up their instruments, prepare music, gather required supplies, and finally if there is time, warm-up. If there are no procedures set in place for how quickly this process should take, then it is possible that class instruction could be delayed. However, if set-up procedures are learned and practiced then students will have an idea for how long the process takes and will be better equipped to begin class on time. I believe that the principle of procedures follows the Canter model of Assertive Discipline because it rewards desired behaviors and does not tolerate the delay of instruction.

Section 3: Communication with parents/students

Communicating with parents and students allows a dialogue to be open between the teacher, parents, and students. By communicating important information that sets clear expectations and allows for parent and student response, teachers are able to establish trust with students and parents.. In the music classroom it can be difficult to complete graded assessments based off of performances. However, if the teacher sets clear expectations and communicates with students and parents about how grading will be completed, then students are more likely to be successful. By communicating clear expectations with students, then they will feel motivated to complete their assignments, and when they are successful they will trust that the teacher is fair, and consistent. I believe that this principle aligns more closely with The Ginott Model which focuses on the communication between the student and teacher. In this model, teachers give responsibility to their students to complete assignments following clear communication from the teacher.

Section 4: Room arrangements

Room arrangements describe the layout of a classroom. I believe this principle is important in the classroom because it allows for procedures to function efficiently and allows for instruction to go smoothly. In the music classroom, students usually have assigned seats, lockers, music, instrument equipment, etc. The teacher has the podium, office, music, instrument, etc. There are a lot of things that need to be kept track of in the music classroom. If things are organized and consistent then the teacher and the students can be consistent in the execution of procedures and can begin instruction in a timely manner. I believe that this principle also closely aligns with the Canter model because having an organized and consistent room gives students structure and allows for them to closely follow the procedures so instruction is not delayed.

Section 5: Conclusion

It is important that students understand the expectations in the music classroom. Procedures, room arrangement, and communication establish confidence in students, and helps to establish a good relationship between the students and teacher. If students do not know what to expect when they walk in their classroom then they will struggle to display desired behaviors. It is vital that students know what to expect from their teacher and are able to trust that their learning environment is consistent.