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## Classroom Management

### Good Behavior Program/Student Recognition

Students thrive in an environment where they feel validated and appreciated for their special talents and skills. It is my philosophy that students need to be daily aware of what is positively expected of them. I choose to verbally recognize students for appropriate, admirable characteristics and actions. Not only do students feel validated when recognized positively, but other students understand what “to do” as opposed to what “NOT to do”. Too often in schools, inappropriate student behavior is recognized. In my classroom, I incorporate a Student Recognition Program/Good Behavior Program.

The Student Recognition Program weekly recognizes students for model behaviors. For example, as we complete each week, each student in the classroom receives a small certificate stating what they did well that week/how they exemplified a model student that week. Through this program, students understand that the teacher believes they can make good choices that keep the classroom a safe and productive learning environment. During my internship year, I incorporated this program and students were delighted to receive their certificates at the end of the week. Students began to mimic responsible behaviors of their classmates and I began to see the classroom mentality drift from the negative to the positive. Students loved that their teacher was keeping a record of their exemplary behaviors and not their negative behaviors. I noticed that this greatly increased student confidence in my classroom and encouraged good behavior!

### Personal Behavior Charts and Goals

All students are different and while positive Student Recognition may help one student to succeed and behave appropriately in the classroom, it may not help another. When students begin to struggle with repeated inappropriate behaviors, I have found that personal behavior charts are a great tool, both in holding students accountable for their actions and communicating with parents. The students and I discuss the inappropriate behavior and create a goal to reach and the student documents their progress towards their goal several times a day. These goal sheets are sent home with parents to communicate their student’s successes and room for continued growth.

### Consistency

Finally, consistency can be a teacher’s most powerful tool for classroom control. As a teacher, I recognize the priceless value of making rules, routines and expectations known to students the minute school begins. As school begins, the students and I will create a classroom contract where we together create rules for our classroom so that it can be a safe, enjoyable harbor of learning. Students will sign this contract and will be expected to uphold its regulations. Students will also be aware of the consequences for their actions, just as I will ensure that students are keeping their contract for a safe, enjoyable classroom.