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Classroom Management Plan
Dr. Lamb

Classroom management is the most important component to any classroom, whether it be elementary school, middle school or high school. It can essentially make or break a classroom and will determine how your students act and the control you have of them in your room. Throughout the semester, we learned three different theories and approaches to classroom management; Love and Logic, Marzano and Harry Wong. Love and Logic focuses on the humanistic aspect of teaching, Marzano focuses on engagement of students and Harry Wong focuses on classroom rules and procedures.

My personal philosophy of classroom management is to create a safe and comforting environment for my students. I will incorporate all three theories; however, I want my focus to be on the Love and Logic theory of classroom management. The Love and Logic theory focuses on understanding the humanistic part of school and developing relationships with your students. Although this will be my focus, I will be implementing classroom procedures and engagement, as well. I want my students to be a part of making these classroom procedures so they will be more connected to them and more willing to stand by these procedures. As Marzano says, “Research and theory, then, support the intuitive notion that well-articulated rules and procedures that are negotiated with students are a critical aspect of classroom management, affecting not only the behavior of students but also their academic achievement” (p. 17). So, by negotiating with them, it will also be like their class contract they will be obligated to uphold. For the engagement piece, I want my students to have interest in what we are doing so I want to be as enthusiastic as possible for them and teach my lessons per their learning styles and interests.

Starting off as a new teacher will be an emotional rollercoaster I am sure, but having background knowledge of classroom management will help make things go a lot smoother. Before school even starts, I would like to have an open house for my students’ parents to come

see the classroom, find their desks and allow their parents to get to know me. I will also send home a letter to parents with my contact information so they can get ahold of me anytime they feel they need to, within reasonable hours.

For the first day of school, I plan on introducing myself and telling my students about my life. I think it is important for my students to know about my life and that I am open to telling them about myself because I want them to feel comfortable telling me about their lives or even coming to me if they have a problem. Upon me getting to know my students, I would like them to get to know their classmates since these are the people they will be with all school year. I will have them fill out an “All About Me” sheet to help this process (see Appendix C). After the class fills out their sheet, I will have them stand up and introduce themselves to their classmates and tell them some information they wrote down. I will have them do this in pairs so they do not get shy speaking in front of the class on the first or second day. When that is done, I will hang up their sheets either in the classroom or in the hallway.

On top of getting to know each other in the classroom, I will be introducing our classroom procedures and we will be going over them for the first few weeks of school until it becomes routine. As a class, I would like to make these procedures so my students are more connected to them and more willing to follow through with them, as stated previously. I would like us to make classroom procedures that help with transitioning, listening when teacher talks, turning in homework, putting belongings in the closet and bathroom procedures. Although I would like us to make these procedures as a class, I will be guiding them and prompting them with ideas to make sure these are fit for all. Then, I will have them sign the “contract” so they have the responsibility to abide by these procedures.

These are just a few procedures I would like to implement on the first day. Over the course of the first weeks of school I will start implementing more procedures but I do not want to overwhelm my students in the first few days so I will ease into the other procedures in the following weeks. Other procedures would include bell work, agenda, sharpening pencils, group activities, reading, etc. and I would just prioritize the most important ones.

As far as student and parent involvement goes, throughout all my years in school, my parents have been very involved in my education, as well as with my siblings. Even to this day, when I think I am on my own in college, my mom still asks about my grades and checks to make sure I am on the academic honor roll. I am grateful for my parents' involvement in my education because it made me make my education a priority and want to do well. That is why I believe parents have such an influence on their children when it comes to school. Communication with parents will be very pivotal for me in my classroom. It will allow them to know my expectations of my students, our procedures and how their child is doing as far as educational development.

Having that communication will also allow me to understand parents' concerns for their child, as well as their goals for their child. Just like I want my students to feel comfortable coming to talk to me, I want their parents to feel they can talk to me as well. At the beginning of the year, I mentioned I will send home a letter introducing myself and giving each parent my contact information. Throughout the year, I would like to send home weekly letters or progress reports to parents. These progress reports would include homework for their students, reminders about the upcoming week at school and some information about what we are learning. I find it important to keep parents in the loop on what their child is learning in case they have any concerns.

I also would like to have face to face meetings, so parent teacher conferences would come in nicely for this. I would like to just meet with them and talk more in depth about their child's education, their upcoming goals for the remainder of the year and questions/comments they may have. Along with talking about their child's education, getting to know the parents in a more one-on-one setting would help all parties involved.

Some other strategies I might be willing to implement into my classroom would be flexible seating. I know some of the presenters talked about this for their classroom and I really liked the idea. I know I am a kinesthetic and tactile learner so it is hard for me to sit still for a certain amount of time and when I was in school, those yoga balls would have come in handy for me. I like how there are enough tables with different seating so that every student could test it out and see how they learn the best. I think this would be accommodating for the students tremendously and if sitting or standing in a certain way helps them learn the best, then I am all for that!

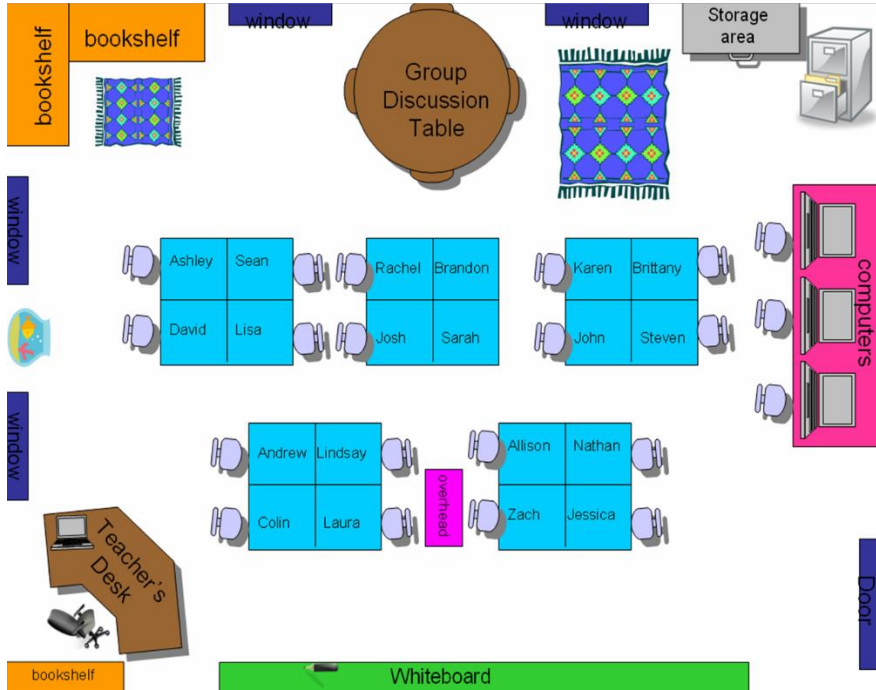
As far as getting on board with the school's philosophy of classroom management as well as other school policies, there would need to be a lot of communication with staff members and the administrators. Not only would everyone need to be on board but I think giving our own input into the school policies would be helpful. As a team, everyone can balance ideas off each other and that will be easier to work together. Ultimately, the students are the main focus and making sure the school has a well put together environment for all students to have a successful learning opportunity is key.

My first year of teaching will no doubt be emotional at first, but knowing that I will have time to come up with the way I want to run my classroom and how I want to do things in my classroom is exciting. I know I will need to lean on my teaching buddies in the building I am in

but I have no doubt that I will make it through. The fact that every teacher has gone through this process is very comforting because I have them to give me advice on if something will or will not work or even advice on changing something. I know I will most likely have to change a lot of my original plans as the year goes on and I am okay with that thought. Practice makes perfect but we are all human and we all make mistakes but every mistake is a learning opportunity for the next time.

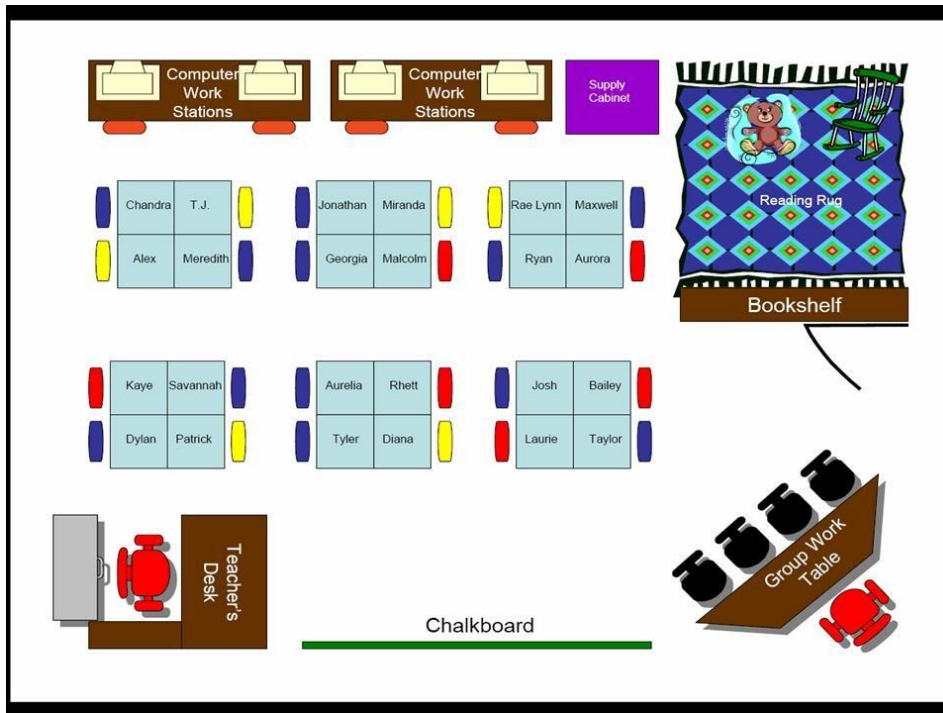
Appendix A:

- These are two different seating charts I would use for my elementary classroom. They are useful for group work and easy for me to walk around the room while instructing and observing students' work.



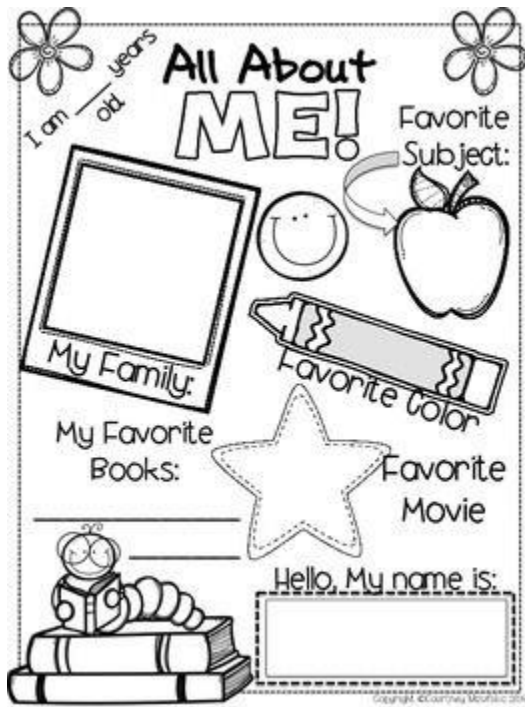
Appendix B:

- Just another seating chart I would consider



Appendix C:

- This is the “All About Me” sheet I will have my students fill out.



References:

Marzano, R. J., Marzano, J. S., & Pickering, D. (2003). *Classroom management that works: Research-based strategies for every teacher*. ASCD.