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December 2018

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Happy Holidays

The School District of Clayton wishes you and yours a peaceful holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Classroom Management: Working With the “Problem” Students

There will be times when a permanent teacher will leave a note informing you of the students that can be challenging. The permanent teacher is leaving you this note to be helpful but it can get in the way of building a positive relationship with those students. Consider this story from a substitute teacher who had received a list of “problem” students:

“Hello,” I said with a smile, meeting each student’s gaze [as I greeted them at the classroom door], “I’m so glad you’re here. I’ve heard good things about you.” I told my first challenge student.

He stopped and with a surprised tone in his voice said, “You’ve heard good things about me?”

“I’ve heard that you are quick-witted and energetic and that you have a keen sense of humor. I appreciate those things.” I replied. “Will you take your seat, please?” And so he did; I came to find out he was all of those things.

My second challenge student came in....

I greeted him at the door with a smile, shaking his hand while telling him how glad I was that he came to school that day; that I had wanted to meet him since hearing about him.

“Why?” he asked startled, “Why did you want to meet me, what did you hear?”

“I’ve heard that you are quick, strong minded, and quite intelligent. Those are qualities I admire, along with a sense of humor, will you walk to your seat with me?” He came along with a pleasant but bemused look on his face.

These interactions set the tone for the rest of the day. The students responded to this sincere, positive reinforcement so well! There were times when I had to hunt for something to say (that was both positive and sincere) quickly before something negative could happen but it worked?

This substitute teacher was proactive in her approach to these “problem” students. Because she was willing to greet them at the door, get them immediately on task, and praise appropriate behavior, she and her students had a positive and successful day.

Interact Positively and Respectfully with Students

Highly effective teachers interact with students in ways that support good learning. They build a positive rapport with students by showing an interest in them as individuals and treating them with respect and courtesy. These teachers model respectful behaviors that they expect from their students not only toward themselves but also toward other students. They encourage students to seek help from each other when appropriate. Their classrooms are characterized by a climate of respect and collaboration.

End of Semester

The end of the first semester is quickly approaching, and you may notice the number of teacher absences/substitute requests in the district decreasing. This is a common trend at this time of year. Because of looming finals and the need for classroom report card assessments, most professional development and District curriculum work has been put on hold. This means you will probably be receiving more last minute, early morning, phone calls for absences related to staff illness. Be prepared by having your clothes picked out and ironed and your lunch packed.

Quote of the Month

“If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead to anywhere.

- Frank A. Clark

Computer Access

The District has computer access for substitute teachers so you can search jobs and leave feedback in Aesop. The username is always “**subsub**” and the December password is “**Dec2018!**”.

Calendar

Dec. 12	Board of Education Meeting	7pm Administrative Building
Dec. 19-21	CHS Finals	
Dec. 21- Jan. 3	Early Dismissal/Winter Break Begins	Check with administrator before leaving for the day
Jan. 3	Classes Resume	
Jan. 9	Lab Classroom Board of Education Meeting	High Needs 7pm Administrative Building
Jan. 11	Early Release	Check with administrator before leaving for the day
Jan. 17	Lab Classroom	High Needs
Jan. 18	No School PK-12	
Jan. 21	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	No School
Jan. 23	Cognitive Coaching Board of Education Meeting	High Needs 7pm Administrative Building
Jan. 30	Lab Classroom	High Needs
Feb. 1	Early Release	Check with administrator before leaving for the day
Feb. 5	Elementary Umbrella Meetings	High Needs
Feb. 6	Elementary Umbrella Meetings Board of Education Meeting	High Needs 7pm Administrative Building
Feb. 15	Early Release	Check with administrator before leaving for the day
Feb. 18	President’s Day	No School
Feb. 20	Board of Education Meeting	7pm Administrative Building
Feb. 21-27	Lab Classroom	High Needs

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