

**Classroom Management Final Paper**

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## Final Classroom Management Project

### **Introduction**

Classroom management is one of the most important components in teaching. It can make or break a teacher's classroom. This semester, we learned about and discussed different classroom management philosophies, strategies, different scenarios that will occur, and finally what our personal classroom management philosophy is. Throughout this paper, I will be explaining what I believe my personal classroom management philosophy is, my plan for the first days of class, how I will make connections with my students and their families, how I will establish the classroom family, and the steps I will need to take to circumvent possible inappropriate behaviors in the classroom. Classroom management is essential in the classroom, and I am looking forward towards utilizing these strategies and philosophies in my physical education classroom.

### **Classroom Management Philosophy**

My classroom management philosophy is a combination of Love and Logic and Marzano. I also believe that Dr. Becky Bailey's ideology of Conscious Discipline plays a part of my philosophy. Physical education classrooms are not like a typical classroom. While there are some similarities, there are also major differences. The main difference being that students are urged to move around. In order to run a successful physical education classroom, classroom management is vital. My philosophy is a combination of Love and Logic and Marzano with a hint of Conscious Discipline and it will allow for me to keep the students engaged and having fun as well be feeling safe in the classroom. One of the key elements of Love and Logic is the ability to be empathetic with students (Fay, 2010). I believe that the best way to do this is by having a strong relationship with a student. Relationships are critical when working with students. Dr. Becky Bailey states that students need to have the ability to self-regulate their

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feelings and actions (Bailey, 2014). This is especially true in physical education. It may seem that all children enjoy physical education, but this is not true. By creating and maintaining a positive relationship with students, the students will have a better opportunity to thrive. They will also feel as if they are safe and can converse with you about anything. Throughout my experiences in observations and practicums, I have seen the importance of relationships with students. Relationships with students can also allow them to feel confident and safe when they are in the classroom.

Not all students are athletic or enjoy physical activities and I believe that it is critical to have things in place to keep students' interest. Keeping student interest in lessons can change the classroom. Situational interest is essential in physical education. This can be done through Marzano's strategies to maintain situational interest (Marzano, 2003). These strategies are using games, friendly controversy, bringing forth unusual information, and finally, using questioning strategies. By utilizing these four strategies, student interest remains and keeps them engaged. I have always been in favor of classes having fun and playing games. Marzano's strategies allow the students to have fun and learn simultaneously.

From a young age I have enjoyed physical education. I always thought that I was able to learn best while I was having fun in the classroom. I believe that my philosophy combining Love and Logic, Marzano's theory, and Conscious Discipline can allow for a fun and productive learning environment. While physical education classes are fun, there are purposes behind every lesson. Like other subjects, there are standards and learning objectives for each unit. By having positive relationships, the students will be ready to learn, and I will utilize Marzano's strategies to have fun while the students are learning.

### **First five days of class**

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The first week of class can dictate how the remainder of the semester/schoolyear can go. By being prepared and ready to engage with the students, the schoolyear or semester can begin in a positive way. Physical education teachers in the state of North Dakota are licensed to teach kindergarten through twelfth grade. With this in mind, it is important to know how to interact with students in all age groups. For this paper, I will be focusing the first five days of school while at an elementary school. Elementary students are much different from middle or high school students. Because they are not as old or mature, they are treated in a different manner. In my past experiences, these students are full of energy and ready to move once they get into the gym. Keeping young students on task can be difficult in the physical education setting but preparing the students can change everything.

My plan for the first five days of school is to explain the rules and procedures of classroom, begin to create routines, and share my expectations for the students while they are in the physical education setting. By doing this, it will be clear of what the students are to do throughout the schoolyear. The first day of class, I will stand outside the gym doors greeting each student. I will also do this before each class throughout the schoolyear as I continue to develop relationships with my students. During the first day of classes, I will do an introduction activity with the students. First, I will present about myself and why I enjoy being a physical educator and then the students will get into groups and then the students will create a FIT slide. The FIT slide description can be found in Appendix A. After I greet the students at the door, they will set aside their things and go over to the board that has the class warmup. After introductions and the class warmup, we will discuss and practice classroom rules and procedures. Since most elementary physical education classes are thirty minutes, we will continue conversing about classroom rules and procedures the next two days of class.

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The second and third days of classes, we will continue to discuss classroom rules, procedures, and expectations. The main expectation in my class will be to treat all students with respect. I will explain to the students why this is important and why it is vital that the students exhibit this expectation. Another example of a procedure that will be implemented in the classroom will be the passes used to leave the classroom. I will have a laminated pass that will allow students to go to the restroom, the office, or to another classroom. The passes will be on a lanyard which the student will wear around their neck. These passes will allow students to leave the room during class. After we discuss the passes, we will practice using them in different situations. Following this, the students will have the remainder of class to converse with one another about their favorite activities in physical education. The fourth and fifth days will consist of reminders of rules, routines, procedures, and expectations. We will also practice entering and exiting the gym in a calm fashion. After practicing these things, the students will begin the activity. The first week can be difficult to get students to interact with one another so the lesson will be a fun game or activity.

### **Connections to Students and Families**

As previously stated, I believe that relationships with students is essential in the classroom. I also think that it is important to develop a relationship with the student's parent or guardian. There are many ways to create and maintain relationships with students, but there can be some difficulty creating relationships with parents. This can be an issue with physical education teachers because they are not the "primary" classroom teacher, so it is important to reach out to the parent/guardian early and frequently. If a parent/guardian is involved in the student's learning, there is a better opportunity for success. I will utilize a letter home to both the parent and the student. I will send out this letter before the school year begins so the students and

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parents can know a little about me before we officially meet. The letter can be found in Appendix B below and is an example of a letter that I would send home to the parent/guardians of a class of eighth grade students. By doing this, the parent/guardian learns information about me as an educator and may feel more inclined to remain involved in the child's learning. I will also attempt to create and maintain relationships with my students. I will do this by greeting the students at the door each day and getting to know them throughout the school year. I will be doing this through our interactions as well as a get to know you activity at the beginning of the year (listed in Appendix A). Having a positive relationship with students can change the way a student views physical education. The students do not have to be athletic or exceptionally good at physical activities to get a good grade or reap the benefits of a physical education class. Connecting with students can change a student's viewpoint for physical activity both in and outside of class.

### **Establishing the Classroom Family**

The classroom family is becoming more recognized as a key part of schools across the world. Research is constantly being conducted about the importance of the classroom family. Throughout the semester, we have investigated this research and discussed its importance. My personal plan for establishing a classroom family is to have constantly communicate with the students and the people in their lives. I will also emphasize the importance of respecting others and the things that they have to say. At the beginning of the school year/semester, I will show the students how they should treat one another and the "safe area". Having a safe area in a gymnasium can be difficult but in previous experiences I have seen teachers have their safe space be outside of the gym. It can be either in their office, outside the gym, or a room that is designated for students when they are needing to calm down and re-enter their "upstairs brain".

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Students need to feel safe and like they belong in the classroom. By establishing and reinforcing the school family, it allows for the students to feel a sense of belonging while remaining safe in the classroom.

### **What if's**

The University of Mary's Department of Education does a wonderful job of helping students prepare to enter their own classroom. Unfortunately, we can not always be prepared for every scenario. This is especially true when discussing classroom management. While we cannot prepare for each scenario, we can prepare for some common issues. As our world of technology continues to grow, we can anticipate having issues with cell phones in the classroom. My philosophy with cell phones will be consistent with the policy of the school. While I do not know the exact policy of the school as of now, I will put emphasis on enforcing the rules of the school. In physical education classes, there is not a lot of time for students to use their cell phones in an educational purpose. If the students have cell phones when they enter the gym, I will have a cellphone "locker" for them. They will be expected to put their phones in their assigned number before class begins and will not be allowed to get them before they are instructed. Obviously, there will be students that will not want to comply with this rule. One factor of Love and Logic is allowing the students to have a choice in the classroom. I will implement this strategy in alignment with the phone procedure. The students will either have the choice of putting their phone in their assigned slot or they will be asked to put another personal belonging in the slot. I will also give the students the ability to put their phone in my office until class ends or they can give it to me, and I will return it to them after class. Having cell phones in class may not be as big of an issue in physical education, but it is still important to be prepared for this scenario.

### **Conclusion**

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At the beginning of the semester, I was aware that classroom management was important, but I had no idea of how important it truly is. Throughout our class, we have explored different philosophies and strategies that can improve our personal classroom management. I believe that I have a good start on my classroom management strategies and knowledge of my classroom management philosophy. By utilizing Love and Logic as well as Marzano's thoughts and ideas, I can allow the students to feel safe and have them ready to learn in a fun and efficient manner. I will ease the students into the school year and then create, reinforce, and maintain classroom rules and procedures and relationships with students and their families. Being in this class has allowed me to develop skills that will be vital as a teacher. I am looking forward towards becoming a physical education teacher and working with my students each day. I feel blessed to have been a part of this course and will continue to utilize the knowledge and skills that I acquired as I progress in my teaching journey.



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References

Bailey, B. (2014). *Conscious Discipline: Building resilient classrooms*. Loving Guidance Inc.

Fay, J. and Funk, D. (2010). *Teaching With Love and Logic*.

Marzano, R. (2003). *Classroom Management that Works: Research-based strategies for every teacher*. ASCD: Alexandria, VA.

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## Appendix A

## Get to Know You Activity

- Have the students create a slide displaying information about themselves!
- Using pictures, words, or both, create a slide of your “FIT” of what makes you who you are as well as other information about yourself!
  - o Required to list one F, one I, and one T
  - o List one thing that you do for Fun
  - o List one thing that Interests you
  - o List one thing that you are Thankful for

## Ideas that students can use!

- Favorite PE activity
- Favorite athlete? (if they have one)
- Favorite sport? (if they have one)
- What is your favorite subject in school?
- Who are some of your family members?
- What kind of things do you do outside of school?
- Who are some of your role models and why?
- Can use images from the internet or pictures from home!
- Likes and dislikes in school
- Make sure to include pictures of the things that you put on your FIT slide!

Purpose: introduction to the class and teacher, allows the student to tell everyone about themselves!

## Appendix B

Hello! I will be your child's eighth grade Physical Education teacher! I am eager to begin my first-year teaching at Watertown Middle School. I am a 2023 graduate of the University of Mary with degrees in Physical Education and Coaching. As a former student who could never get enough of physical education, I hope to help your child enjoy it as well and become a lifelong member of an active community.

In my class, I have two expectations for all my students. The first and most important expectation is to ensure that everyone is respected and feels safe. The second expectation is to BE INVOLVED! Physical Education requires participation and movement! I ask that as parents you inquire about our classroom activities and see what your child is learning. I also would like to encourage you and your child to be active and have some fun together that requires some movement! When families are involved, it can allow the student to stay engaged both in and out of the classroom.

If for any reason your child cannot participate in physical education, our school requires a note from your physician including the date activity could be resumed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have using my contact information below.

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