Teaching, Acknowledging, and Re-directing Behavior
Dr. Hank Bohanon
Wednesdays - 8th Period

March 1, 2005

Today's class dealt with pre-teaching, acknowledging, and teaching behaviors. First we need to give a quick reminder about what we expect the behavior to be, and then it's easier to re-direct if a behavior is not acceptable. Also, give a compliment first, and then be specific in describing the behavior.

We also learned that people learn by watching others. Therefore by praising someone else, we might be able to get someone who is acting inappropriately to start acting appropriately. There is also a 4 to 1 payoff - for every negative find 4 positives.

Our homework was to put this into practice. Although I'm now trying to practice this in my classroom, I decided to try it in the hallway.

TIME: 46 minutes

March 3, 2005

Today I put the above into practice. I walked the hall during first period when I would be in contact with the juniors and seniors, and again during ninth period when I would be in contact with mostly freshmen and sophomores.

As I thought, it was easier first period. For instance, on one occasion I saw two students going to their locker when they were suppose to go straight to their class. I told them good morning and complimented them on getting to school. I then asked them where were they suppose to be going and they replied to their class and proceeded to do just that. They did not stay at the locker. I thanked them for doing what they were suppose to do. On another occasion I smiled and said good morning and complimented her on having a pass. I then asked what the uniform consisted of and she said the white shirt and I.D. Right at that moment she took her ID out and put it on.
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I thanked her and told her to have a good day. The rest of the period was pretty much the same.

Ninth period was much different. Most of the students ran from me when they saw me approaching. I did get to talk to a couple of students, both for not having a pass, and they were pleasant and responded much like the students first period. I'll have to think of something else to do for the freshmen and sophomores.

TIME: 96 minutes

March 22, [date]

During this class period we went over everything we had been discussing the previous Wednesdays. We discussed what we had tried and how it went and did some role playing.

TIME: 46 minutes

March 29, [date]

Today we talked about praising students who were on task and various ways to get students who were off task back on task. As always, eye contact and proximity is very important. If a student is off task and the teacher walks by, and maybe stops near the student, pretty often the student will get back on task. We also talked about when asking a student to do something, like to stop hitting the desk, not to get into a conversation about it. State what you want, wait (don't respond if the student says anything), and then repeat the request again if necessary. Once the student has done what was requested then thank them.

Homework was to do the above.

TIME: 46 minutes
March 30, 2013 and on ....

I continue to practice all I've learned. What I've found so far is that in the classroom I'm most comfortable in dealing with inappropriate behaviors by using eye contact and proximity. I have found that some behaviors, such as tardy to class and being off task, have diminished somewhat. I attribute that to each class forming their own classroom PARR. I will most definitely have each class develop their own classroom PARR at the beginning of each semester.

I have two senior classes and two sophomore classes. Maturity level definitely plays a part in behavior. I'm lucky that I teach computers because everyone can proceed somewhat at their own pace and I don't have many problems. However, I do have to correct behavior more often in the sophomore classes than I do in the senior classes. This does not surprise me.

The hallway is the area that I want to work on more. I like the idea of giving a compliment first to someone who's being inappropriate and having somewhat of a "conversation" with them. It gives me a chance to meet more students.

I'm very happy that I went to these classes.

TOTAL TIME: 724+ minutes