**Philosophy on Education and Classroom Management**

There’s a story about a student in a classroom who constantly shows up without his supplies. Primarily, he never had a pencil. Most teachers, as a form of accountability, will tell the student to bring a pencil and punish him for his mistake. However, this teacher would always help provide the student with that needed pencil. Yes, it is important to hold students accountable, however, for this teacher it’s more important for students to know you are there to support them.

My philosophy on education and classroom discipline surrounds this notion. Education is more than passing a class and graduating. Students attend schools and become educated to learn skills and a passion for learning, which they could use throughout their whole lives. It’s a shame when school is almost a punishment when learning can be such an invigorating experience. Providing what they need allows this passion to occur. Who knows what they experience outside of the classroom, so it is my job to ensure they have a positive learning experience at all levels within my room.

To teach and engage with students in a way they know I am there for them, I must have positive, healthy relationships with them. Elementary students automatically look up to their teachers. Middle school students and up require respect to be earned, and this comes through developing relationships with them. Connecting with them and being genuine. Once this occurs, respect is gained, which makes classroom discipline unnecessary because classroom management is made simpler. However, if students outside of the norm decide to behave poorly in the classroom, I normally try taking care of it on my own. This would first mean a one-on-one conversation to try and resolve things. If that doesn’t work, I will contact the student’s parent(s) and discuss how we can work together to ensure their child’s success. If these things don’t work and behavior continues, I would bring administration in. All steps would be recorded on file as a way of holding the student accountable for their success in the classroom. In my teaching thus far I have not needed to include administration, but these would be my steps in classroom discipline.

Overall, education is much larger than getting a good grade. Rather, it’s the beginning of a journey we are on to better ourselves and pursue our passions. My philosophy is to build relationships to teach important skills for students to be successful as they move forward in their lives.