Discipline Plan

Classroom discipline is the most essential factor in having an effective classroom and an appropriate learning environment. Without proper behavior, the classroom will quickly become chaotic, student’s attention will drift, and learning will be limited to what a disruptive environment will allow. The discipline techniques provided by a teacher should outline what the teacher wants the students to accomplish while in his or her classroom in order to provide the best possible learning situation.

As for my own views, misbehavior is anything in a classroom that will distract a student or other students from staying on task. This includes verbal or physical, actions that use body language, and distractions that are inadvertently provided by the teacher. These include materials around the room that may grab a student’s attention, like pictures, or a student being able to look out a door or a classroom window. Teachers who make an effort to provide structure will be successful in lowering the number of distractions in their rooms, but for the most improvement possible they will need the cooperation of their students. I believe students want to improve and providing the right type of situation for that improvement is the teacher’s responsibility. The purpose of classroom management is to create a learning environment where distractions are limited and learning is essential, a place where learning is the top priority for all.

For an effective high school discipline system, there must be a community of learners. The community includes students, teachers, and administrators striving to accomplish the same goals. In this community of learners, students come into the
classroom relaxed and knowing they will enjoy time spent in this classroom. The teacher will be relaxed but ready to teach and deal with possible disruptions, while students will respect one another and appreciate what each one brings. Another factor that allows an effective discipline system is one that allows students to be themselves. If they are allowed to be themselves then a relaxed environment will occur and students will be able to perform without added anxiety from being stressed.

Both factors contribute to discipline effectively. The community of learners puts responsibility in each student’s hands. Knowing that disruptions hinder what other students can accomplish will provide a block to some potential problems. It will also create respect for their peers because again, they don’t what to hinder what others are trying to accomplish. If students are able to be themselves, then the community environment is more attainable. Students will learn more about each other and even accept others who they normally may not hang out with. A goal of my community environment will be to break the clique routine that often occurs in a classroom and outside of a classroom.

Since misbehavior will eventually occur in every classroom because conflict and disagreements are inevitable, the teacher must limit disruptive behavior. One solution to help prevent the wrong type of behavior is to promote students taking responsibility for their own behavior. This responsibility includes thoughtful decision making, accepting the consequences of one’s behavior, and taking steps to improve one’s behavior when the situation is evident. To do this the teacher can address the problem when it is not a distraction, and make the student understand why the disruption is unacceptable (Charles 2005). In order to do this the teacher can confront the student after class, discussing a
possible solution. Another way to prevent distractions is to be up front with students. A teacher can tell them what he/she expects, who he/she is, what he/she stands for, what he/she will and will not ask them to do, and what he/she will and will not do for them (Charles 2005). This means that the teacher must lead the classroom and provide an example for what he or she expects, work hard for the students, and be accountable for the students. A teacher’s example will go a long way so he/she should make it a positive one.

I have already acknowledged that misbehavior will occur in all classrooms and possible ways to prevent it. Since we know it will occur, then it must be dealt with. A very important aspect in dealing with misbehavior is to not draw a lot of attention to it. If a teacher does so then the student is getting attention he or she may be striving for, and the negative act is also gaining attention. These are two factors that need to be eliminated when dealing with any type of disruption, CM Charles’s Synergetic Discipline makes it clear that to deal with a problem a teacher should do so when it is no longer a distraction, when the negative act and the student are not getting attention from the entire class (Charles 2005). A good time to deal with a problem would be immediately after class, so the student knows the act did not go unnoticed. For example, when students are leaving after class, pull the misbehaving student aside and explain why the behavior is unacceptable and how he/she can fix the situation.

Students will disrupt class, but students will also be in class who want to behave in a responsible manner. These students are most likely the majority so they must be the teachers focus. The teacher needs to make it a priority to keep good behavior the majority. To do so the teacher needs to create opportunities for students to perform well,
and should not put them in a situation to fail. When students do achieve, the teacher needs to praise him/her for their accomplishment. (Charles 2005). If students fail then frustration may set in and I believe frustration can easily lead to misbehavior. Also, a student should have some freedom. The teacher must allow each student to learn in a way that is most productive for them. If a student is restricted and only provided with one teaching technique, then learning will be limited to how the student reacts to that technique. A student may not react well to lecturing, but is a really strong hands on learner, or he/she is not strong in a class discussion, but is really good at putting their ideas on paper. Teachers need to provide alternatives to how they teach their class, not just the same routines all the time. The freedom to learn effectively will help create individual success, which will lead to the community’s success.

In my classroom, I will develop the list of rules because I believe they allow for the most productive way to achieve our goal of a community of learners and still provide a stable classroom. The list is short and easy to follow.

- Respect- always respect yourself and others
- Responsibility- be responsible meaning make sure you do the right thing by thinking about your actions
- Accountability- be accountable for your actions whatever decision you make own up to it and know that what you are doing can either help or hurt yourself and classmates. The accountability rule will only be effective if the teacher is an effective leader and can lead by example.

These rules will be strictly enforced because standards in any class will be set by what the students can get away with (Jones 2005). The teacher cannot allow a student to
disrespect another student; if the teacher does then he/she is allowing the rules to be bent. If rules are bent, it could soon lead to complete rule breaking and classroom disruption.

Most of the basic procedures of my classroom will be determined by the schools handbook policy. These basic procedures include the absent policy and tardies. The school policy will determine excused and unexcused absences, and by what time an absence must be called in. Also covered under the policy should be the rules on how absences to the doctor, a funeral, or college visit are dealt with. When dealing with tardies, a student will be counted late if he or she is not in the room when the bell rings. In a situation where a I have granted permission to a student before class or where the student has a pass from another staff, member the tardy will not be counted.

Other basic procedures not in the school handbook are determined by me. All assignments given throughout the week will be turned in on Friday. I believe this will teach the students how to manage time. This is an essential skill needed in college and most students are not very effective at time management, and they struggle at the beginning of their college careers. Students will, at times, be allowed to work on assignments during class, and they will have the freedom to do it at home. If the work is demanding and time consuming, like in the case of a project, research paper, or class presentation, I will determine the due date. If a student misses class the make up work will be done at a time determined between the student and me, but if a test is missed it will be made up as soon as possible, preferably during the student’s study table because some students are unable to stay after school because of transportation issues. At the beginning of each class a short assignment will be given. The assignment will last
approximately 10 to 15 minutes; examples include a vocabulary assignment or a review assignment.

The discipline plan I have created will contribute to me becoming a successful teacher. Students will understand our goals from the first day of class because they will be given a copy of these goals, and we will then go over them together. Parents and guardians will be mailed a copy of the goals with the letter to the parents or guardians. I will also be sure to explain to administrators where I am coming from and what my goals are because for my plan to be successful I will need their support.

The ultimate goal in my classroom is to create an inviting environment where every student feels welcome. I want all students to feel comfortable and willing to ask questions, for questions trigger learning and contribute to a student’s success. I want a class where students realize that we are all there for the same reason and for that alone everyone deserves respect. The community of learners that I want to create will take time, and I will have to earn every student’s respect, but once I am successful, my classroom will become a very effective learning environment guided by a consistent management plan.