Discipline paper

Discipline policies are set in every classroom and are made for the same basic uses. Each teacher has a different policy to create the desired structure for his or her classroom. My discipline policy is established to achieve a respectful learning environment, a chance to have fun while learning, a chance for students to want to be more effective in their self-control, and a classroom structure that is created to achieve the best learning possible. As I created this policy I kept in mind that it would be used for a high school level classroom.

After reading and learning about several different theorists, they all have several great points to their discipline plan. Mostly, my discipline plan will be based around the Fred Jones’ positive classroom discipline theory. In order for this system to work, one must establish an environment and structure that encourages good behavior, incentives to do the right things, as well as teaching and helping students in an efficient and entertaining manner (Charles 55).

The best way to deal with discipline is to prevent the undesired behavior from actually happening. The first way of achieving this is by discussing the classroom rules and their consequences the first day of class. These rules will be put in the front of the room for all to see.

1. Be respectful to the teacher, classmates, and school property
2. Be on time
3. Be prepared for class everyday
3. Do your own work
Another way of preventing students from misbehaving is the classroom arrangement. Fred Jones explains the best possible arrangement is to minimize the physical distance between the teacher and student. The classroom needs to be easy to walk around from desk to desk. As an art teacher, I need to be able to move from desk to desk to make sure students are on task and not misbehaving. As I teach and observe during work time, I will have the room arranged in a way that I will be able to move around the room in order to get to each student in a quick, effective manner (Charles 59). A good setup will help eliminate problems and will help create an effective learning environment.

Next, Fred Jones emphasizes that to have a well-disciplined classroom the teacher needs to give incentives for students to behave correctly and respectfully. I am a rewarding type of teacher. I love to praise students for their good work and great behavior. Ideally, I would like to reward my students with music during studio time if the class, in general, is being well behaved and is on task. I will even allow students to pick the music of choice if it is appropriate for school. Also, for those students who work hard in the classroom and produce good work, I would like to put their work in a showcase somewhere in the school for the students’ peers to see and admire. On a weekly basis I would like to have special reward for the student that produced the best work. One way I will do this is have an artist of the week. His or her work and name will be seen very easily somewhere so the whole school can see. I will also praise students by sending letters home to their parents for behaving well as well as to explain that they are doing exceptionally well in my
classroom. These examples of praise will motivate students to work hard and help their self-control when they feel the urge to act out and misbehave in class.

The last thing that Fred Jones emphasizes, and what I think is the most important tool for a positive and effective learning environment, is being an entertaining teacher and effective helper. There are 7 basic needs of students that Maslow says that need to be met in order for the students to act appropriate: security, belonging, hope, dignity, power, enjoyment, and competence (9th in Charles 221). I feel I can achieve these basic needs by respecting students and being a friendly caring teacher. Also, Fred Jones says to keep kids entertained teachers have to interact with them during the lesson and not just at the end of the lesson. He calls this method, “Say, See, Do Teaching.” The teacher “says or does, the students see, and the students do something with the input” (9th in Charles 61). This will keep kids actively learning and will help stop students from getting off task. As an art teacher I will be able to apply this method easily. Along with this, I will be enthusiastic about teaching everyday in my classroom. I will do my very best to come up with new and exciting ways to teach kids in order to keep them entertained. As an art teacher I can really focus my teaching around hands-on learning. Because of this I think it will help to stop unnecessary misbehavior. Along with being a fun and an exciting teacher, applying a little humor in your classroom is a great way to keep students respecting you. Mrs. Watson, a middle and high school teacher, explained to me this is one of the biggest ways she keeps students in order and from acting up (Watson).
There are two kinds of misbehavior; there is misbehavior that is so bad that it needs a corrective discipline strategy, and there is misbehavior that affects the class but only needs a quick supportive discipline strategy. Every teacher needs to have both of these strategies to be an effective teacher. I will use supportive discipline when I want a student to quit talking in class. For example, when I am talking I will direct my focus on him with a calm but stern look. Fred Jones uses this method; he explains that a teacher must stop the lesson for a moment and face the student that is being disruptive while making eye contact and keeping the whole body facing the student. Jones says this is a great way to let the student know that you are committed to discipline (9th in Charles 60). Another method of supportive discipline is redirecting off-task students. I plan to walk in the direction of where the student is sitting and stand over the top of him/her. If the student still continues to not do his/her work then I will quietly tell him/her that he/she needs to be doing their work or consequently they will have homework. This type of behavior will be dealt with as quickly as possible so I do not take away from the rest of the class.

Since I plan to be a high school teacher, misbehavior that needs corrective discipline is really not accepted. Students at the high school level should know by now what they are allowed to do in school and what they are not. Having said that, I still know misbehavior will happen either making bad choices or by trying to cause problems in class. I believe everyone happens to screw up once or twice it is bound to happen. If the students are misbehaving I will give them two warnings in class and use the Fred Jones method of stopping the misbehavior. Next, pulling them aside after class and have a one-on-one talk with them to see what the real problem
happens to be, will also be used. If students continue to misbehave, then I will move
the person who is causing most of the problem to front of the class by my desk. I
will do this either the next day of class or during the work time. The next offense
the student will receive a detention with a note home to their parents. In this note
home I will get the chance to share my discipline policy with the parents. Also, in
this note I will let the parents know what their son or daughter has been doing
wrong in my class and ways that I have been and will be trying to correct the
problem. The parents will have to sign the note and will need to be returned to me
the following day. This will basically hold for all misbehavior that needs corrective
discipline. There are only two exceptions to this, if a student is caught cheating on a
work whether it is homework or a test, then he/she will receive a zero on the work.
If it happens twice, this will result in failing my class. Also, if the misbehavior is so
bad that I have to skip the two warnings, then the student will be sent directly to the
principal.

This discipline plan will work the best for my classroom, because it achieves
a respectful learning environment, a chance to have fun while learning, a chance for
students to want to be more effective in their self-control, and a classroom structure
that will be arranged to create the best learning possible. Creating a friendly
environment allows my class to be a warm and welcoming to the students. Even
though discipline has to happen, I will not be mean about administering its aspects.
Mistakes are bound to happen, and I will not hold it against students for making
mistakes. Also, I believe my discipline plan will help students learn to respect their
elders and peers. Respect is the most important thing when it comes to learning.

There is no substitute for respect and there is no excuse for lack of it.


Watson, Lynn. (interview, October 15, 2004).

Dear Parents,

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Dan Sprunger and I am honored to be working with your child in the art room this semester. Through this year the curriculum will consist of several projects and tests that will be done mostly in class with a few outside of class sketches and homework. I am looking forward to teaching your child how to further his/her knowledge and develop new skills in the art world.

In addition to the agenda, at all times the students and I will be practicing respect for one another and all things. I feel this is not only important in the classroom but in all situations out of class. If respect is accomplished, then all classroom rules will not be broken and the students will have the chance to learn at their best ability.

Based on the respect policy I will have a set of classroom rules that will be established during the first class period. With addition to the rules there will be consequences for breaking or bending the rules.

1. Be respectful to the teacher, classmates, and school property
2. Be on time
4. Be prepared for class everyday
5. Do your own work

I am a teacher who loves to reward students for great work and great behavior. Throughout the semester I will be rewarding students with verbal praise, letters home, and ext. If the class is behaving well together as a group I will be rewarding them with things such as field trips and music during studio times. Those that do not behave or work hard will be receiving consequences.

In conclusion, I feel that if the rules are followed and students respect one another and myself, along with me respecting them, then this will be an outstanding
semester of fun and learning. I will do my very best to notify you throughout the semester on how your child is doing in class.

If you have any questions you may contact me either at school or at home.
School: 
Home: 

Thanks you for your time and support,

Mr. Dan Sprunger