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First Days of School (Chapters 11-20)

These few chapters focus on the features and benefits of having a well-managed classroom. Wong stresses how classroom management procedures are vital for student achievement. Wong states, “the most important thing a teacher can provide in the classroom during the first week of school is consistency. I agree with Wong, students need to establish a since of trust in the person that they will be learning from for the year. Students do not welcome surprises or embrace disorganization, especially those who come from a disorganized home life. Wong gives 3 points for an effective teacher which are, they have classroom management skills, they teach for lesson mastery, and they practice positive expectations. These are all things I am working on during student teacher. I feel this book is helping me find things to work on before I get into my own classroom. Wong also list characteristics of a well-managed classroom and Wong gives specific techniques teachers can use to ensure a well-managed classroom. I really want my students to feel informed and be very involved in their learning process. Chapter 12 is about being prepared and maximizing student learning. In chapter 12 Wong states, “The effective teacher has a minimum of student misbehavior problems to handle. This ineffective teacher is constantly fighting student misbehavior problems. Yet the situation is easy to remedy. “This is something I struggled with t at the beginning of my student teaching. It has gotten better now that I have established my place in the classroom but Wong has a lot of suggestions that will help me get a handle on behavior before the misbehavior begins. Wong also gives suggestions on how to introduce yourself to your class in chapter 13. First impressions are everything for parents and students. I love the idea of sending the letter home to each student before school begins. It gives parents the opportunity to see how dedicated you are as a teacher and gets the teachers the extra help from parents. Wong similarly illustrates how important assigned seating. “How the class reacts to your first directions will be an indication of how students will react to your directions for the remainder of the year.”, says Wong. I totally agree something as simple as a seating chart direction gives you a gage of the student’s behavior. Chapter 14 just stress that preparation and seating arrangements are significant. Beginning and ending the classroom with student’s work is a way to utilize all the time that is allotted. I also like the idea of having a posting of class room routines and daily assignments, it gives the students responsibility. Wong also talks about taking role and how the students should not be involved in roll taking and how to begin class with an assignment not roll. This is really important to me, too often I have seen teachers let valuable class time go to waste for checking roll. This is not being effect or using time wisely. Chapter 17 talks about maintaining a grade recording system. A lot of school have an electronic grade book and for me I prefer the old fashion way of recording grades. I have had my ups and downs with technology and I know how it can fail. Having them written down can assure no mishaps. “If you do not have a plan, then you are planning to fail. Having simple rules, consequences, and rewards I feel will promote consistency in the classroom. I do agree that a lesson should not stop when giving a consequence or reward. It’s up to the teacher to teacher procedure, as chapter 20 explains no classroom procedures will lead to a failing classroom. That all ties back in with having consistency in the classroom. Students cannot follow procedures that the do not know, make rules and follow them accordingly.