FIVE GREAT IDEAS OF AN EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENT

by:
Hilda M. Lazarte
Teacher III F.C. Del Rosario Elementary School

A well-arranged classroom is a well-managed classroom. The physical set up of your classroom largely affects class management. This article will give you five important ideas you must keep in mind in setting up your classroom to help you manage your class to the best of your advantage.

Planning the arrangement of your classroom has to focus on maximizing the space for a more effective teaching-learning process. But there are certain things that should take into considerations.

First, many teachers share space because of the large population of the school. Second, elementary school teachers generally have table type and activity centers compared to secondary teachers. Third, the subject matter also determines the type and the arrangement of desks or tables because of the activities required for the subjects.

The exact physical arrangement of a classroom is not a usual topic of discussion when we are in college. It is as if it is a constant type. But it takes more effort to consider the appropriate arrangement of your classroom for the effectiveness of learning for the benefit of your students and even to you also.

Here are the five ideas of an effective classroom arrangement.

1. Consider the supplies, furniture and other things present in your classroom. What type of desks do you have? What type of tables? Do you have a green board or whiteboard? Are they attached to the wall or on wheels? Do you have desktop and
projector? Do you have cabinets or shelves? Now, plan their arrangements. You can sketch it first so you will not waste time and strength in moving things and changing your mind after.

2. After arranging your classroom to the best possible and practical way. Try to feel or experience it in a student’s point of view. Would they feel comfortable? Can they move freely? Can they work comfortably? Can they see the board or overhead projector clearly? Does any part of your classroom distracting? All the things that you think should be changed or removed must be addressed.

3. The arrangement and appearance of your classroom can represent you personality. The kind of teaching or philosophy that you have must be seen and felt in your classroom. The relationship of the teacher and students can also be affected by the classroom set up. What kind of personality do you want them to perceive from you? What kind of relationship do you want to have with your students? You can rearrange things if they are not effective to your goal.

Where do you want to put your table? Do you really need a table? If you do, you should think it through where it should be placed. If you are not certain where to put it, try putting your table at the back of the classroom. This promotes an atmosphere that is much more learners center, and allows you to have space to work while still keeping an eye on your students at all times. There should not be a blind spot so you can monitor your students well.

4. What matters most is that the classroom arrangement is well planned and designed. Give ample time in thinking about it and reflecting on the goals that should be met and the circumstances that may appear. You main focus is the needs of your students and achieving a place conducive for learning and that would make the life of your students easier so they will enjoy learning. All things must be in their proper places.
5. Lastly, there should be no large areas of dead space where illegitimate or random activities unnecessary for learning can be promoted. Always have in mind the safety of students. It must be free from accidents and hazardous elements. The students must be well inform also with the Do’s and Don’ts for their safety. Above all else, safety is an important consideration to make when arranging your classroom.

References: