THE PROACTIVE TEACHING APPROACH

by:

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Teachers spend added amounts of time, money, and resources in planning lessons and evaluating student progress, but often to little avail. Students who are motivated in the classroom just end up without the important academic principles they need to succeed later in life. The educational successes and failures that drive the students to succeed or fail can take many forms.

The rapport established on the first day of school, the consistency with which the teacher imposes consequences, and the physical set-up of the classroom, all contribute to either student success or failure.

Students need a strong foundation on which to learn as well as an environment that encourages learning. Cooperation independence and the ability to focus, are essential elements that must be instilled in them from the onset.

It is paramount for a teacher to plan and set up the classroom in such a way that will promote an effective learning environment. The structure may vary depending on the teacher’s style of teaching and depending on the students' needs.

A class conducted in a manner where the teacher typically introduces a lesson and then instructs the students to work individually on a related assignment may require desks arrange in a “u” shape. This allows the teacher to present a topic with minimal distractions and then enables her to easily monitor the students while they work independently.
For students with diverse academic abilities, seats must be structured in a “clustered” form. Grouping these students in a heterogeneous manner optimizes the learning environment. In mixed ability groups, the weaker students benefit by seeing how stronger students study and approach problems, and the stronger students gain a deeper understanding of the subject by teaching it to others.

A teacher with little or no knowledge of her students’ personalities, needs, and academic abilities creates a failure when she allows students to pick their own seats. What if some students are being bullied? What if some students can't see the board? What if the class clowns sit together? The dynamics of the classroom will adversely suffer if such important choices are left to the students.

It is important not only to think inside the box, but also outside the box. That is why it is important not only to think about where the students’ desks are located but also what’s on top of them.

Moreover, a place within the classroom where students could remove themselves from a stressful situation, compose themselves and rejoin the class activity, while remaining in a safe and supervised environment without interrupting the learning taking place in the classroom, is worthy of consideration.

Teachers must also have high expectations of their students and not accept any less than their best work. This must be made clear to the students on the first day of school and be constantly reinforced throughout the year.

Dialogue is another tool that may lead to student success. The teacher can demonstrate this by personally communicating with each of the students, if possible, on a daily basis.

Asking students how they are doing, asking about their families, and asking about their interests, can be very helpful in establishing rapport and trust.
In essence, the foregoing assertions that were laid try to impart that teachers should endeavor to work closely with their students instead of against them.

References:
