

Feedback Evaluation

Throughout my apprentice teaching experience, I have earnestly worked on classroom management and time management. The first day I entered the classroom, students were cautious, well behaved, and attentive. After the newness of the school year wore off, there were incidents where student behavior began to get in the way of teaching and student learning. Feedback from my university supervisor and mentor teacher helped me put student behavior back on track. I learned about detentions, office and counselor referrals. My mentor teacher worked with me to contact parents and we worked through a parent conference that really helped one student get back on track. Interestingly, upon receiving feedback from students from a survey, one student said that I needed to “be meaner” because some students might want to take advantage of me.

Because class time is limited and there is so much for students to learn, time management can be difficult. My university supervisor suggested I use an online stopwatch on the board to help with activities like quizzes, warm-ups, and other timed activities. This has helped immensely. At first the students were really irritated about being on a timer, but we all started to get used to it. By the end of my student teaching experience, no one worried about the timer. Students stayed on task, finished before the timer went off, and class time became more productive. Students became comfortable with the routines that moved them not from task to task, but from one type of learning experience to the next. Feedback from the student surveys was fairly positive about the use of the timer, although one student did remark that it was silly. Regardless, use of the timer did have a positive effect on the learning outcomes of the students and most actually appreciated that they could glance at the board and know how much time was left to work on their problem.

Feedback from professionals and students allowed me the opportunity to visualize the classroom from another perspective. I welcome all suggestions for improvement. Being a new teacher means I still have much to learn and solid feedback can only help my students learn more, too. Suggestions for improvement that have been implemented during student teaching have served my students well and developed a rapport that allowed open, honest discussion that benefited everyone. Feedback encourages growth and develops understanding.