

Effective Teachers and Organized Classrooms

Here's what we saw in the classrooms of the most effective teachers:

- ◆ The classroom is organized. A place for everything and everything in its place.
- ◆ Lessons are inviting and exciting.
- ◆ The students do most of the talking and the doing, prompted by the teacher's questioning and guidance.
- ◆ Routines and procedures are evident. Students know exactly what is expected of them.
- ◆ There are no teacher warnings for student misbehaviour. If a rule is broken, a consequence follows. If a procedure isn't followed, the teacher provides more practice.
- ◆ The teacher is proactive.
- ◆ Lesson objectives are clear and measurable.
- ◆ There is constant teacher movement around the room. Behavior problems are almost nonexistent.
- ◆ There is little dependence on worksheet-type activities. Lessons are highly interactive, and students remain engaged in meaningful activities.
- ◆ The punishment for any given infraction is consistent (and rare).
- ◆ The teacher does not show frustration. Even in the case of misbehaviour, the problem is handled seriously but calmly. The teacher always appears to be in control.
- ◆ Activities are varied to meet the needs of all learners.
- ◆ Technology is used, thoughtfully, to enhance lessons and learning.
- ◆ There is constant positive reinforcement.
- ◆ Teacher enthusiasm is evident and contagious.

You now have a blueprint for what an effective teacher's classroom looks like. Try it on for size, and get your teaching organized. Management is the key to success. Just do it, and be at your best! For an organized teacher is a happier one than one who has let things come undone.