



Coach's Corner

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Williamsburg Charter High School - 198 Varet St., Brooklyn NY 11206 - 718-782-9830

*"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I
remember. Involve me
and I learn."
-Benjamin Franklin*

Top 5 Strategies for a Smooth Structure

Upcoming Events

The Teacher Center will be offering a mini-series every other Tuesday

October 13th

New Teachers only
Cornell Notes Recap

October 27th

All Teachers
Cornell Notes:
Next Steps

Mini Series sessions are offered during periods 4-7.

Each session starts 10 minutes after the bell and lasts 30 minutes.

Grab a snack and stop by for:

Strategies on the go!

1. Every Student Every Day

The first, and most important, strategy for a smooth classroom structure is **meeting your students at the door EVERYDAY**. When we greet students in the first week of school, it helps us to start learning names. But as the months go on, this gives us a chance to learn a little more about our students each day. It is also a great way to gauge the temperature of our students. By meeting every student at the door, we can see who is having a good day, who is having a bad day, who got enough sleep last night, and who needs an extra minute to finish breakfast. This is especially helpful with our challenging students. Rick Smith suggested a 2 x 10 approach, spending 2 minutes 10 days in a row with these challenging students, and if we are greeting students at the door every day, we have that opportunity. When we make greeting **every student every day** at the door a priority, students will be verbally and visually reminded about how much we care.

2. Student Leadership

Building student leadership is essential to helping students take responsibility and ownership of their education. Although this takes very clear procedures and strategic planning when assigning jobs, once student leaders start to run the class we are free to facilitate curiosity and inquiry. Student leaders can do everything from setting up technology, hanging work, reading powerpoints, writing on the board, handing out paperwork, etc. Almost anything can be handed over to the students. Class jobs give students a purpose in the classroom community beyond what they perceive as just sitting and listening.

3. Teach from the Back

Once student leaders are running the class structure, we are free to teach from the back, after all we are teachers not preachers. By teaching from the back we are giving students a visual representation of their ownership of the classroom and their responsibility to their education. Students should be standing at the front, writing on the board, reading to the class, passing out necessary paperwork, etc. Also, the back of the room gives us a nice view of everything that is happening in our classroom.

4. Lesson Plans

Our lesson plans are a significant determining factor of classroom structure. Our lessons need to be full and engaging, not to mention there should always be a plan B, just in case something doesn't work as planned. Build teaching or reviewing procedures into the lesson plan and have some fillers ready to use if a few extra minutes present themselves.

5. Student Engagement

The more engaging the lessons the more intrigued the students. A quick way to start building student engagement is checking for understanding. We can deepen student engagement just by altering the way we ask questions. When you are ready to take it to the next level, try Project Based Learning. If your procedures are in place, you can also implement movement. Get the students up out of their seats through stations, gallery walks, or group work. Get the students active through class discussion and debates or obstacle courses and classroom competitions.

**Need help
figuring out the
Promethean
Board??
Sign up on the
Teacher Center
window for
training**