



Who Can't Use a Good Idea?

...Marlene John, WEA Pres.

Did you know that the NEA website has help for you in starting the year and making it through the year with your sanity in tact? If you go to this website you will find several helpful tools to help you with classroom management, classroom discipline, and other areas where you may need help or have concerns: <http://www.nea.org/lessons/backtoschool.html>

You might even ask yourself, "What's the most important thing I can do to have a well-managed classroom?" Harry Wong says, "First understand that behavior and classroom management are two different things. **Behavior has to do with discipline. Classroom management has to do with procedures and routines.**"

Here are a couple of ideas that may help you get off to a good start or improve if you have issues with behavior, or procedures and routines in your classroom.

- 1. Model better behavior:** "Please turn around and stop talking," Students often make excuses in this situation. To model would be to express how you would like them to respond to you such as, "Sorry, Mr./Mrs./Ms/Miss, I'll get back to work." Eventually students will catch on.
- 2. Turn the tables on them.** When students are resistant to



learning concepts you may take this approach. "I think it'd be really good if you taught this lesson. I'll give you the material and you can take it home and prepare. If you have questions, come see me." When it is time for the student to teach the concept they will likely face the same disrespectful behavior from their peers as you face as a teacher. Students usually make huge turn-around in class after they experience this, this works in junior high very well.

- 3. Don't argue with students.** It takes one fool to backtalk and two to make a conversation. Arguing starts as a murmur grows to a rumble and finally the heaving dump truck of disruptive behavior rattles up and down your classroom, noisily squashing your lesson plans.

Squelch the problem before it gets to high gear.

- How do you quiet your class? Give disruptive students a task to do. Pass out papers.
 - Chime your class to quiet. A chime will get your students' attention.
- 4. Plan, plan and plan some more.** Idle hands can be a real demon in the classroom. Have something as filler if your lesson ends early.
 - 5. Spice up your lessons.** Bring in a guest speaker; teach with a hands-on experience.
 - 6. Great each student at the door.**

The Doctor Is In

"You need to take control of your classroom on the very first day of school," says Harry Wong.

Have a great year.

