

CLASSROOM LEADERSHIP

Most every problem that persists in the classroom is at its root a leadership issue. If an ongoing problem is to be overcome it will usually happen by good leadership not through better management.

Establish a Vision for Learning



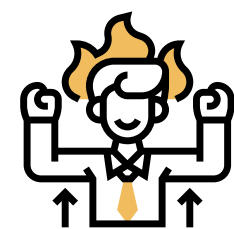
Leaders create a vision for learning. They communicate WHY the learning is important. Better yet, they help students unpack for themselves HOW and WHY the learning is important. When there is a clear vision, students will be empowered to move toward aims without having to be pushed there forcefully.

Build Strong Relationships



Building positive relationships is essential to establishing a positive learning culture. Leaders develop a "we" feeling with students. Students feel safe, connected, like they belong. Every student feels like they are being valued. The leader doesn't use fear as a motivator. Instead, they rely on relationship building to correct and guide.

Generate Enthusiasm



Leaders are inspiring and energizing. They are passionate about what they are doing and it is contagious. They encourage others to come along on the learning journey. Managers don't think about the energy they bring. They rely on structure and organization to be efficient. Efficiency is more important than passion to the manager.

Build Trust



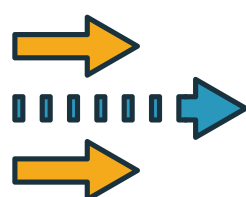
When trust is lost, it does incredible damage. A leader is careful to ensure that students don't feel disrespected, overlooked, or misunderstood. When things go wrong, leaders help to shoulder blame. And when things go right, they are willing to share the credit. Leaders are quick to forgive. Leaders work to repair a relationship that is hurting.

Establish Honest and Clear Communication



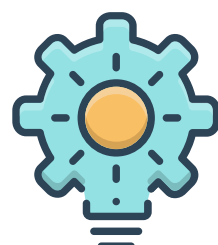
Even if you establish great, trusting relationships with students, you won't have a strong learning culture unless you are communicating effectively. Sometimes this includes delivering hard truth to students. Sometimes it means standing firm. Setting boundaries. Giving Consequences, However, consequences are never as effective as communication for establishing a positive change.

Lead by Example



Leaders have high expectations for themselves. They start with the person in the mirror. They model the types of behaviors and mindsets they want to see in others.

Be Proactive vs Reactive



Leaders prevent. Leaders focus on what will happen next. An effective leader anticipates the needs of followers and works to stay in front of problems.