Classroom/Time Management Strategies

Know Your Kids - Teachers need to learn students’ names as soon as possible. This is a way to make an immediate connection and show right away that you care about them as people. There are several great ways to learn names quickly, and I promise you they’re worth the effort. If you can greet each student by name on Day 2, it will have an immense impact toward limiting problems throughout the year.

Procedures Prevent Problems - Routines allow students to know what’s going on and get right to work. Start every class period with a daily warm up set as students walk in. You can stand at the door and greet students, and they can get right to work before the bell even rings. This can be helpful for getting a class started off right.

Anything You Can Do Before Class, Do Before Class! - Post daily procedures so students can see exactly what they will be doing that day. Have papers printed and ready to go at the front of the room, assignments ready on Google Classroom, and any websites or videos pre-loaded in case of tech-glitches.

Instructional Strategies

Relevant Vocabulary - Keep vocabulary relevant and limited to what students are able to handle. Make sure the words are actively used in context throughout the lesson and encourage students to use the words during the lesson. Teaching vocabulary through a graphic organizer, through an experience, or other means enhances the learning.

Summarize - Summarize to bring the lesson to a close. This is the time to assess students’ abilities to effectively answer the essential question to determine whether you need to extend or refine the skill. In most instances, this is the point when you determine whether to go back and reteach or accelerate student learning.

Assessment Strategies

Assessing Prior Knowledge, Recall, and Understanding -

- Background Knowledge Probe - Short, simple questionnaires prepared by teachers for use at the beginning of a course, at the start of a new unit or lesson, or prior to introducing an important new topic.
- Focused Listing - Focuses students’ attention on a single important term, name, or concept from a particular lesson or class session and directs them to list several ideas that are closely related to that “focus point.”
- Misconception/Preconception Check - Technique used for gathering information on prior knowledge beliefs.

The resources listed are provided as options and examples. Pennsylvania does not require, recommend, or endorse any specific program or product. All curricular and instructional decisions are made at the local level.