

High School Classroom Management Steps

1. Set Clear Expectations and Norms

- Clearly communicate classroom norms and consequences.
- Align expectations with school policies and student developmental levels.

2. Build Respectful Relationships

- Get to know students! Learn and use students' names and pronouns.
- Show interest in their lives, interests, cultures, and goals to build mutual respect.

3. Teach and Reinforce Procedures

- Teach procedures for entering class, using devices, transitioning, etc.
- Practice and revisit procedures as needed.

4. Foster a Positive and Inclusive Climate

- Acknowledge student efforts and contributions. Model empathy.
- Use warm language and practices to support community and belonging. Be available and open!

5. Use Consistent Routines and Signals

- Start class with greetings, clear opening routines, agenda.
- Use hand signals, timers, or verbal cues for transitions and focus.

6. Monitor and Support Engagement

- Circulate the room to connect, check for understanding, and redirect behavior early.
- Offer flexible grouping, seating, and voice/choice when possible.

7. Address Behavior Calmly and Privately

- Use a calm tone and pull students aside when possible.
- Redirect with clarity, not confrontation. Follow through on consequences.

8. Be Fair, Firm, and Flexible

- Apply rules equitably, while considering individual circumstances.
- Reflect on implicit bias and allow space for student voice and feedback.

9. Use Restorative and Reflective Practices

- Incorporate reflection sheets, conferences, or peer mediations when appropriate.
- Prioritize repairing harm and restoring relationships over punitive action.

10. Reflect, Adjust, and Communicate

- Regularly reflect on classroom culture and management strategies.
- Communicate with families and collaborate with colleagues when needed.