A common discussion in leadership is the difference between leadership and management. The basic premise is that leaders lead people while managers take care of tasks. So, I find it interesting that we refer to this concept as classroom “management”. Is the task all we are concerned about or are we concerned about the individuals in our classes?

I ask this question slightly rhetorically, because the answer is “Of course we care about the individuals.” Therefore, I would propose that the most important component of classroom “management” is not all the tasks but all the people. We are leading people, not managing tasks. I will admit that there are always seniors who have no idea how to enter a classroom appropriately. However, are we simply trying to get them to change that task or is our hope to lead them to betterment as an individual?

Ok, enough with the questions. Hopefully you get what I’m talking about because next comes some strategies to help lead the person which will, in turn, resolve the issue with the task.

The Wisconsin Education Association Council provides some great new teacher resources on their website (http://www.weac.org/professional_resources/New_Teacher_Resources.aspx) and there are a few of their “Strategies for Classroom Management” I would like to bring your attention to:

- Be fair, positive and consistent. This is truly a great model for all of us in general and one that we can teach to our students through our own actions.
- Avoid arguing with or threatening a student.
- Admit your mistakes and keep a sense of humor.
- Let students know that you care. All of the cheesy clichés aside, if students know that you care about THEM they will go out of their way and surprise you! Make sure students know that caring is not tied to their academic performance.

The ultimate goal of classroom management should not be on simple obedience, but on having students behave appropriately because they know it’s the right thing to do and because they can understand how their actions affect other people.”

-J. Hardin

Classroom “Management”

Nebraska Family and Consumer Sciences

Call to Action

The idea of “classroom management” can be a scary one, but especially so for a newer teacher.

Consider reaching out to a new teacher in your school district to share strategies with them on how to implement classroom management practices. This doesn’t even have to be a teacher in FACS. If you can manage a lab setting, then you can manage a traditional classroom as well!

Nebraska Family and Consumer Sciences integrates family and career readiness with technical skill instruction within a critical science perspective. As a result, our students are empowered to navigate the challenges of living and working in diverse communities, while striving for a high quality of life.

CSO Spotlight

FCCLA

Dues are already coming in from the National office! Don’t forget to get all your students affiliated so they don’t miss out on STAR Events, running for office, or scholarship opportunities. Also, all chapters that want to be eligible for the Chapter Award must have at least some students affiliate by November 1.

Check out these shots from FLW!