

First 3 minutes



Managing student behavior is a prerequisite to effective instruction. Yet, the management of student behavior is difficult for many people—not just new teachers. Though one article cannot cover the breadth of classroom management, it can describe a few techniques for you to use tomorrow!

Manage means to guide, supervise, or direct growth. Guide your students' behavior and establish an environment conducive to learning in the first three minutes of class with the following routine. This basic plan is effective at all grade levels.

Stand at the door. Monitor student behavior by being at the door as students enter the classroom. Your presence signals a change from hallway behavior to classroom readiness. Establish this routine during the first few weeks of the school year, and it won't be necessary later.



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Greet students. As you stand by the door, greet incoming students with a smile and, if needed, a gentle and affirming reminder to follow procedures. You can promote a positive learning community and encourage

teacher/student interactions while monitoring behavior. As you become familiar with students, address them by name for a more powerful greeting.

Teach entry behavior. Instruct students how you want them to enter the classroom. Learning the steps for proper entry is critical, especially for young students. Teach entry behavior as you would any other important lesson—with an objective, new information, modeling, student practice, and summary. Students should: 1) walk; 2) enter quietly; 3) keep their hands to themselves; 4) go directly to their seats; and 5) begin work on a pre-assigned activity.

Take roll. Once students are seated and working on a short task that you have assigned on the board, overhead, or desk journal, you will want to take roll. This method leads seamlessly to the next class activity.

Transition seamlessly. Quietly seated, your students are ready for the main lesson or activity you have planned. Handle disruptions during this time according to your basic classroom rules.

Consistently teach and implement these simple elements in the first three minutes of class to set the tone for the day. Establishing proper student behavior minimizes distractions and maximizes learning in your classroom community. ■

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Learn more classroom-management techniques from Dr. Jorgensen by attending his workshop at the Kappa Delta Pi Convocation in St. Louis, November 13–15. Participants will receive a take-home packet of 30 specific and ready-to-use strategies. Sign up for St. Louis now and have the educational experience of a lifetime! Call 1-800-284-3167 or go to www.kdp.org.