

Standard 6(e) Rationale: Creates a safe and purposeful learning environment.

I chose our school's PBIS Matrix as my artifact to justify this criteria. I feel that creating a safe and purposeful learning environment has been one of my greatest areas of growth as a teacher in the last two years. I have really benefited from being involved with the school-wide implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) at our school. I have learned a lot about creating a safe and purposeful learning environment. I chose this matrix because it gives me a coherent list of positive academic and social behaviors to promote and reward within my classroom. I use S.O.A.R. tickets to reinforce these behaviors. If a student earns one of these tickets, they are able to enter into a drawing at the end of the week for special prizes. I totally retooled my classroom management methods to be based on the methods I've been introduced to through PBIS. I like to use sweets when we play review games to reward volunteerism and correct answers. However, I have also been focusing on noticing the positive contributions that students are making and rewarding them with verbal praise. Also, I have focused on keeping a lighter element in my classroom with a heavy dose of humor. I constantly change the "historical background" on my computer to interesting, weird, or funny historical images that serve as a way to start class by discussing something interesting about history. I feel that the emphasis on promoting these positive behaviors that are recognizable to my students and recognizable to me has gone a long way toward creating a safe and purposeful learning environment in my classroom.