

# **Classroom Culture**

Creating an intentional culture

Leah Nestor, The Mount Vernon School  
Meera Shah, Trey Education

# Intentional Culture

“

The minute your students first set foot in your class, they are adapting to your classroom culture. Your classroom culture consists of all the beliefs, perceptions, and assumptions that you and your students share. As Seth Godin says, the meaning of culture is “People like us do things like this.”

***Whether you realize it or not, your classroom does have a culture. The only question is whether you are cultivating the culture of your classroom, or simply hoping for the best.***

If you aren't intentional about it, you may end up with a classroom culture that doesn't support your goals or your students' needs.”

—Jeff Lisciandrello

*Are You Building Classroom Culture or Managing Behavior? (2022, September 13). Room to Discover. <https://roomtodiscover.com/classroom-culture/>*

**VALUES**

Community

students/learners + department, division, etc.

Me

School

**CREATE CONDITIONS  
IN WHICH...**

**CLASSROOM CULTURE**

In this class, we...

**INTENTIONALITY & CONSISTENCY**

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Deliberate  
Action

Learner Experience & Outcomes

**RESULTS**



# School Culture

MISSION STATEMENT

CORE VALUES

POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS



TRADITIONS



# Personal Values

Achievement	Friendships	Pleasure
Adventure	Fun	Poise
Authority	Growth	Popularity
Autonomy	Happiness	Recognition
Balance	Honesty	Religion
Beauty	Humor	Reputation
Boldness	Influence	Respect
Compassion	Inner Harmony	Responsibility
Challenge	Justice	Security
Citizenship	Kindness	Self-Respect
Community	Knowledge	Service
Competency	Leadership	Spirituality
Contribution	Learning	Stability
Creativity	Love	Success
Curiosity	Loyalty	Status
Determination	Meaningful Work	Trustworthiness
Fairness	Openness	Wealth
Faith	Optimism	Wisdom



# Classroom Culture

CLASSROOM VALUES

AGREEMENTS/NORMS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

ROUTINES/PROCEDURES

CURRICULUM

RELATIONSHIPS

# Classroom Values

What are 4 values for your  
classroom / learning  
environment / learners?

# AGREEMENTS/NORMS

Agreements - Formal written agreements

Norms - Less structured than agreements, can be flexible and adaptable





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT/SPACE

Desks/Chairs  
Teacher Desk  
Rotation Stations  
Wall Posters  
Student Work  
Ambiance



# ROUTINES/PROCEDURES

[Entry](#)

[How To Transition](#)

[Tight Transitions](#)

Daily Materials

Instructional Materials

Warm-Up/Exit Ticket

Discourse/Interactions/Discussion

Question-Asking (ask 3 before me, be specific,  
etc)

Bathroom

Make-up Work and Absences, Late Work

# Curriculum and Classroom Culture



# CURRICULUM

Materials

Instructional Strategies

Units/Lessons

Assessment and Grading Strategy



# RELATIONSHIPS

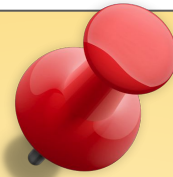


Teacher-Student

Student-Student

Parent-Student

Parent-Teacher



Cultural competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes and policies that come together in a system, agency, or professional and enable that system, agency, or professional to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

Terry Cross. 1988. *Cultural Competence*.



# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL PROFICIENCY

Assess Culture

Value Diversity

Manage the Dynamics of  
Difference

Adapt to Diversity

Institutionalize Cultural  
Knowledge

“Culture is a way of coping with the world  
by defining it in detail.” by *Malcolm*  
*Bradbury*



## CONNECT, EXTEND, CHALLENGE

How are the ideas and information **connected** to what you already knew?

What new ideas did you get that broadened your thinking or **extended** it in different directions?

What **challenges** or puzzles emerge for you?