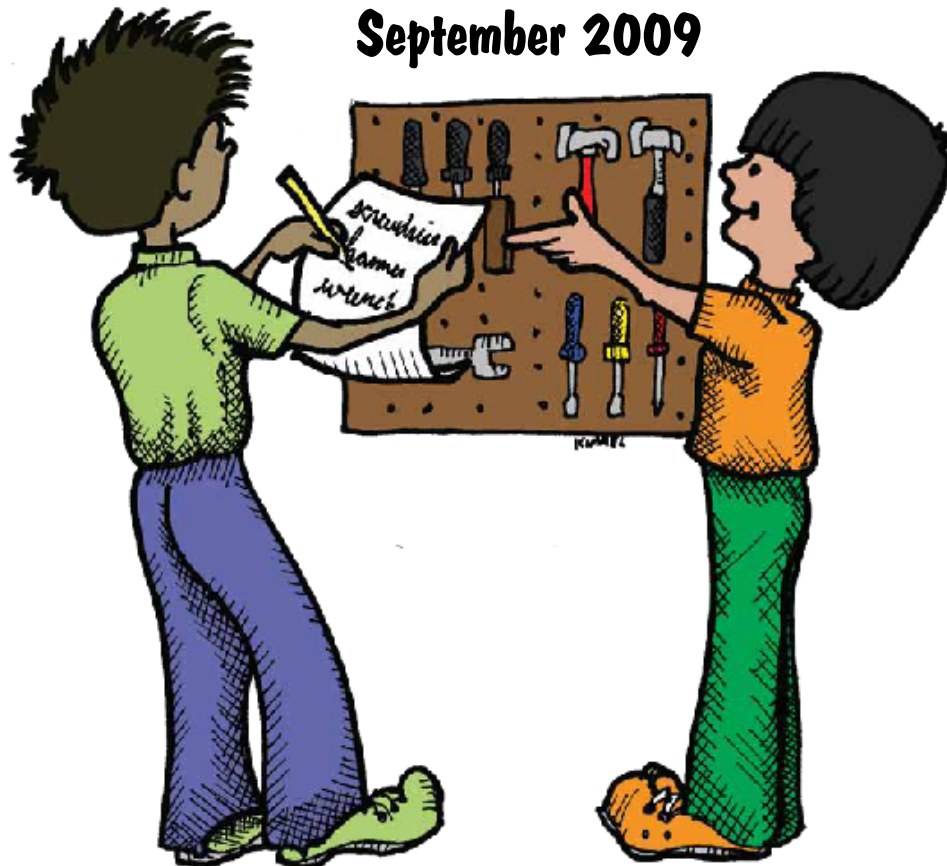




E-TOOLS

September 2009





Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.

– Seneca, Roman philosopher

SEPTEMBER TOPIC: Setting up Your Classroom with C.L.A.S.S. Strategies



Welcome C.L.A.S.S. Educators!

Welcome to another year of C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools. Our monthly E-Tools are a great way to provide you with practical ideas and strategies to use as you implement the C.L.A.S.S. Model. Our field is very unique in that each year we get a new beginning. As the summer ends, we start fresh each year with a new class of students. Your building may also find that you have new teachers and/or new leaders as well. Take advantage of all these “new” experiences and people. What will you learn from your students this year? What can you learn from the new people in your building? Just as we hope our students will learn from us, we should hope to learn and grow with them, too. This promises to be an amazing school year, and we hope the resources we provide in E-Tools will help make it even better.

For this month, we are going to share ideas for setting up (or rearranging) your classroom to take advantage of some of the powerful C.L.A.S.S. strategies. Consider how these ideas might work in your space and how the set-up of your room can make for a better learning environment for your students. Remember it is fine to start out slow and then build on the success.

Best wishes from all of the C.L.A.S.S. staff on a great start to the year! We hope to see you at the C.L.A.S.S. Workshops, Support Team Days and Related Arts Days. Together we can make this the best school year ever!

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Join us on **twitter**

<http://www.twitter.com/joyofclass/>

Join us on **facebook**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/CLASS-Connecting-Learning-Assures-Successful-Students/122165700232?ref=nf>



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

For more information or to register for workshops & events go to:
<http://joyofclass.pbwiki.com> or C.L.A.S.S. Phone: 317-572-1576

Special Events

Support Team Days

Pack up your group of teacher leaders from your school and come join us for a day of strategies, fun and engagement.

FALL SUPPORT TEAM DAY

November 20, 2009

New Augusta North Middle School
Indianapolis, IN

Related Arts Days

Educators in PE, Art, Music, Music and Counselors are all welcome to the Related Arts Day. These days are a great way to gain new instructional strategies, network with your peers and share brain compatible tactics in your specific area.

FALL RELATED ARTS DAY

November 16, 2009

Noblesville Intermediate School
Noblesville, IN

Model Teaching Days

Seeing is Believing! Experience a C.L.A.S.S. classroom in action, facilitated by a C.L.A.S.S. coach. A great day to see best practices in action.

Upcoming dates:

October 1 Westfield, IN

November 5 Fort Wayne, IN

Summer Institute

2010

C.L.A.S.S.

Summer Institute

You won't believe what is planned for Summer 2010! Save the dates and register early. We'll see you there!

June 21 – 24, 2010

Pike Freshman Center
Indianapolis, IN

See the *C.L.A.S.S. Service Brochure* for workshop descriptions at:

<http://joyofclass.pbwiki.com>

Download Registration Forms:

<http://joyofclass.pbwiki.com>



5975 Castle Creek Parkway N Dr

Building VI – Suite 475

Indianapolis, IN 46250

Phone: 317-572-1576 Fax: 317-579-9358

Email: class@joyofclass.org Web: www.indianaclass.com

Registration Forms & Info: <http://joyofclass.pbwiki.com>

Workshops

BEHAVIOR

Tier 1: Starting your New Positive Behavior Plan
October 13 Noblesville

Tier 2: Small Group Behavior Interventions
October 20 Noblesville

Tier 3: One-on-One Behavior Interventions & Bullying
September 30 Noblesville

LITERACY

Writers Workshop the C.L.A.S.S. Way!
September 16 (Kg-2) Noblesville;
September 17 (3-8) Noblesville

Literacy: Meaningful, Energetic & Engaging
October 7 (Kg-2) Noblesville;
October 8 (3-8) Noblesville

BEST PRACTICES

Collaboration Rules! (Cooperative Learning Strategies)
September 29 Noblesville

Test Preparation & Study Tips Every Student Should Know
October 6 Noblesville

C.L.A.S.S. Brain-based Teaching Tools
October 15 Indianapolis

Turning Your Students into Amazing Scientists
September 23 Noblesville

Can You Differentiate Instruction? Yes I Can!
November 4 Indianapolis

Rockin' & Rollin' Your High Ability Students
October 14 Noblesville

Fun and Innovative Teaching with Wikis, Blogs & Internet Resources
September 22; November 3 Noblesville

Hallway Greeting

What is it?

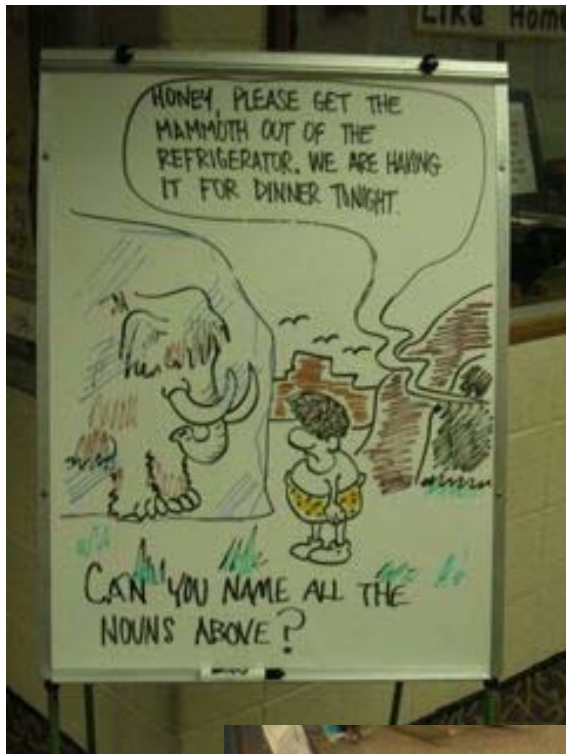
Hallways greetings are a short amount of text displayed on the outside of the classroom so that all students and teachers in the building can read it. They might be quotes connected to the Lifelines or a small amount of text connected to your curriculum. Students in other classes can read about what you learning!

How does this enhance learning?

This is the first message people see outside your room. It helps to reinforce to your class what they are learning and communicates that message to the entire school. Small dry erase boards, posters or bulletin boards outside the room are a perfect fit to share hallway greetings.





What are some ideas for implementation?

- At the end of each day (or week), have one learning club be responsible for writing a sentence(s) to summarize something they learned this week.
- Choose a quote from one of the books read in class that week.
- Write a sentence that highlights something taught during a writing mini-lesson.
- Focus on Lifelines.



Procedures

Literacy Station Procedures

-  Respect your classmates and use quiet voices.
-  Use **effort** to stay on track and follow directions.
-  Cooperate by taking turns and working together.
-  Be organized to begin your station and then clean up quickly.

What is it?

Procedures are the expectations for behavior and learning. It is important to provide clear expectations...or better yet, have students help write procedures. Make sure to incorporate Lifelines into the procedures to reinforce the desired traits with students.

How does this enhance learning?

Procedures should be posted where students would follow them. They should be posted to remind students of appropriate behavior. They should be succinct, easy to read and to the point.

How To Check Out a Book

1. Use **INITIATIVE** to get a shelf marker.
2. Use **COMMON SENSE** to use your shelf marker to select your items.
3. Use **PRIDE** to bring the items to the Check-Out Desk.
4. Use **ORGANIZATION** to:
 1. scan your Library Media Center Card.
 2. scan the barcode on the back of each item in the upper right hand corner.
 3. scan the reset frame to clear your name.
5. Use **INTEGRITY** to ask for help if the computer makes a noise.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- Here is just a beginning list of some things you may want procedures for in your classroom:
 - Literacy Stations
 - Computers
 - Independent Work Time
 - Learning Club Work Time
 - Arrival Procedures
 - Dismissal Procedures
 - Classroom Library Procedures
 - Writer's Workshop Procedures
 - Restroom Procedures

Life Goals and Lifelines



What is it?

The Life Goals are *Treat People Right* and *Do the Right Thing*. Lifelines are the traits that will help us accomplish the Life Goals. Just as the Information Center is used to display the curriculum, it is important that the Lifelines and Life Goals are displayed and embedded into your curriculum for student character development.

How does this enhance learning?

There are lots of places that you can incorporate the Lifelines into your classroom. It is not necessary to use them all. Focus on those used in your school and classroom.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- Incorporate the Lifelines in your procedures.
- Choose one bulletin board to display the Life Goals and Lifelines. Consider adding photos of students exhibiting the Lifelines.
- Consider small picture frames that can be displayed in the common areas of the learning clubs.
- Use the Lifelines in hallway greetings and welcome messages.

Welcome Message



What is it?

A Welcome Message is the text that greets the students every morning as they arrive to school. It should include text for students to read and a task for them to complete. Reading the welcome message and completing the task. It should be part of the students arrival procedures. The message should “kick off” the day and connect to the curriculum/activities that are planned.

How does this enhance learning?

Welcome Messages could be written on a chalkboard or white board, projected on a screen by an overhead or data projector, or hooked up to a wall-mounted TV. Try to keep them in a consistent place to help students know where it will be every day.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- It could very well lead into your community circle.
- Post a photo, quote, or text passage and ask students to write a short reflection.
- Students might read the passage and have a task such as identifying nouns, adjectives, and verbs.
- Maybe the Welcome Message is a story starter that students pick up and continue.
- Look for content areas such as social studies and science to provide ideas.

Agenda

What is it?

Agendas are helpful in guiding students and teachers through the day. They provide structure to the day so students know what to expect. Agendas can also be used as a teaching tool and incorporate content and skills based from the standards.

How does this enhance learning?

There should be a common place that the daily agenda is posted in the room. It could be a chart, dry erase board, chalkboard, or poster. It should remain posted all day.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- Use it as part of a community circle to introduce the day or as a reflection piece at the end of the day.
- Incorporate your agenda into your curriculum. For example: when teaching nouns make sure to use them throughout your agenda.
- Create the agenda with students. Based on the previous day, what do they think will happen today?



Community Circle



What is it?

Community Circles can be used to discuss issues in the classroom, reinforce procedures, teach Lifelines, and process curriculum.

How does this enhance learning?

One area of the room should be cleared where students can gather in a circle. In congested rooms, have a procedure for students to help readjust furniture. In a Community Circle it is important for everyone to be able to see each other.



What are some ideas for implementation?

- Discuss a book
- Share published writing
- Reflect after a project
- Discuss problems or issues in the classroom and create solutions

Information Center



What is it?

The Information Center is a rich learning place based on the curricular topic. The centers should include text, images, vocabulary, objects and any other artifacts that could enrich student understanding.

How does this enhance learning?

The Information Center should be aesthetically pleasing. Bulletin boards, counter tops, etc. are all good places for building an Information Center. Students should have a critical role in creating these centers. It should be a reflection of what is being learned in your classroom.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- Consider using an ABC of it all chart with the topic in the middle and vocabulary words that support that topic in ABC order.
- Make sure that there are photos, images, and objects. This will help students connect to the text.
- Label EVERYTHING in the Information Center so that students are immersed in the text as well as the topic.
- The Information Center is more than just a display. It should be incorporated with instruction. Refer to it as you study the topic.
- Be sure to have your students actively involved in creating these centers!

Learning Clubs



What is it?

Learning Clubs are small groups of students assigned to work together in the classroom. Learning Clubs enable students to collaborate, build relationships and solve problems.

How does this enhance learning?

Group students by pushing desks together or using tables. Provide clear procedures and expectations about sitting in Learning Clubs. Make supplies such as pencils, crayons, and glue easily accessible for each Learning Club.



What are some ideas for implementation?

- Consider different ways to group students
- Assign roles for each student
- Be sure to have Learning Club procedures in place
- Change Learning Clubs as necessary
- Make sure supplies get replenished

Classroom Bulletin Boards / Displays



What is it?

Students learn everywhere including bulletin boards. Make sure bulletin boards are focused on curricular topics. The displays should reflect diversity and appeal to all learners. You will want to save room to display your students' work.

How does this enhance learning?

Be certain that all displays connect to your current topic.

What are some ideas for implementation?

- Students feel a sense of pride when their work is on display
- Teachers can refer to the topics as they teach
- Displays about Lifelines remind students about behavior

