

“The Offer Is Important”

A Boundaries Message For School Staff.

I am not going to make this a complicated conversion into school teaching. There are several ways this could apply to your school. I trust that as a school teacher you will be able to see where it's relevant.

Let me sum one thing up though for you that you can base your strategy with students on.

Summary:

1. Anything left **unsaid** is causing **great harm** and **confusion** in your classroom and school.
2. You need to hammer out very **clear rules** and **expectations** and say every word, post it up on the **wall**, and get the students to carry a **copy** in their binder, and have the students repeat the rule to you when they break it.
3. Offer a **few positives** ways you are going to **support them** in achieving a goal that's important to them. Simple ways, each time they take an action step you can match their step with your own effort. (this can be done for a classroom in one shot, or by the student when there is a conflict)

Call to Action:

1. Take one page of paper and draw a horizontal line across the middle of it.
2. On the top section write “How I support you”, on the bottom section write the title “My boundaries”
3. Under how I support you:
 - a. Write two things you would be willing do for a student.
 - i. EX: If you bring your guitar and practice for half an hour after school for 3 days in a row in my classroom, I will introduce you to my professional musician friend who plays in a successful rock n roll band and ask him to have you at a few concerts, and teach you some secrets.
 - ii. EX: If you make a list of 5 times and locations that an incident of stress happened in your home and describe why it bothered you and how it is interfering with your school

work, I will give you an extension on the deadline of your assignment, provide you a safe time in the classroom to do the extra work, and stand by you as you talk to the school counselor, and support you if you want to confront your parents.

4. Under My boundaries:
 - a. Write two or 3 things that you simply you won't have in your classroom
 - b. EX: In my classroom when I say class is starting at 10 am I don't mean wander in at 10:15am do you understand? ½ hour after school organizing my book shelf to fix this.
 - c. EX: Home work is due when I say it is due, handing in your rough draft instead of a final copy simply isn't going to work. You are getting a maximum of D- on this until you finish it.
5. Wait until your student makes a simple mistake. Then pull out your one page agreement and offer it to your student in a very non democratic way. Put it on the table tell him this is what you're going to do about it.
6. Ask him to sign and date it with you and then you both follow it, especially you.
7. If the student refuses or waivers let them know the second offense will include their parents, suspension and lots of detention.

I would use one page agreements like this for every matter of discipline. Contracts control other people's behaviour just fine. You need to OFFER IT though and talk about it. The students need to hear it, you can never be clear enough.

To learn about Tom's program and strategy for school staff and their students

↓Click here↓

<http://streetsmartcounselling.com/sp.asp?sptype=2>

U.S.A clients welcome.

Or you can make this happen in your school by calling Tom at 403-391-4184

tom@streetsmartcounselling.com