20 Classroom Management Strategies and Techniques

1. **Model ideal behavior:** Demonstrate behavior you want to see by holding mock conversations and interactions with another teacher in front of your students.

2. **Let students help establish guidelines:** Ask students what they think is and isn’t acceptable behavior, encouraging them to suggest rules for the academic year.

3. **Document rules:** Ensure your guidelines aren’t forgotten by writing them down and distributing them as a list for students to keep and reference.

4. **Avoid punishing the class:** Address isolated behavior issues instead of punishing the entire class, so as to avoid hurting your relationships with on-task students.

5. **Encourage initiative:** Promote growth mindset by allowing students to work ahead in certain units, delivering brief presentations to reinforce your lesson material.

6. **Offer praise:** Recognize hard work by openly congratulating students, encouraging ideal behavior and inspiring the class.

7. **Use non-verbal communication:** Complement words with actions and visual aids to improve content delivery, helping students focus and process lessons.

8. **Hold parties:** Throw an occasional classroom party to acknowledge students’ hard work, motivating them to keep it up.

9. **Give tangible rewards:** Reward specific students at the end of each lesson, in front of the class, as another motivational and behavior-reinforcement technique.

10. **Make positive letters and phone calls:** Make positive phone calls and send complimentary letters home, possibly encouraging parents to further involve themselves in their children’s learning.

11. **Build excitement for content:** Start lessons by previewing particularly-exciting parts, hooking student interest from the get-go.

12. **Offer different types of free study time:** Provide different activities during free study time -- such as group note-taking -- to help students who can’t process content in silence.

13. **Write group contracts:** Help student group work run smoothly by writing contracts that contain clear guidelines, asking each group member to sign a copy.
14. **Assign open-ended projects:** Encourage students to tackle open-ended projects to allow them to demonstrate knowledge in ways that suit and appeal to them.

15. **Give only two marks for informal assessments:** Consider avoiding standard marks on informal and formative assessments, simply stating if a student did or didn’t meet expectations. If they didn’t, give them a task to improve competency.

16. **Use EdTech that adjusts to each student:** Give students who struggle to process content opportunities to use adaptive learning technology, such as Prodigy.

17. **Interview students:** Interview students who aren’t academically engaged or displaying prosocial behavior to get insights about how to better manage them.

18. **Address bad behavior quickly:** Don’t hesitate when you must address bad behavior, as acting sooner rather than later will ensure that negative feelings don’t fester.

19. **Consider peer teaching:** Use peer teaching activities -- such as paired reading -- if you feel your top performers can help engage and educate disruptive and struggling students.

20. **Gamify personal learning plans:** Motivate students on personal learning plans by gamifying those plans, through tactics such as awarding XP (experience points) throughout a unit to quantify skill mastery.