

The Learning Community

I feel building a strong learning community is the first step that needs to be taken for a classroom to run successfully. Each student brings a different personality into the classroom, which affects the dynamics of that classroom. I know it is important for me to establish a learning community that brings out the best in each of my student's personalities.

Every student needs to feel like they *contribute* to the classroom and to their success, they need to feel *connected* to those that surround them, and they need to feel *competent* in the tasks that are given to them. It is my job to develop a learning community where each of my students have the opportunity to obtain the things that will make them successful in school and in life.

Classroom Specialists		
Academic Specialists	Computer Specialists	Executive Assistants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator
Math Specialists	Music Specialists	Science Specialists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator
Student Leadership	Reading and Writing	Classroom
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer Tutor Peer Reviewer Peer Editor Peer Proofreader Peer Grammar Checker Peer Spelling Checker Peer Vocabulary Checker Peer Writing Partner Peer Researcher Peer Presenter Peer Debater Peer Mediator

“All human beings are born with unique gifts. The healthy functioning of our community depends on its capacity to develop each gift.”

~ Peter Senge

Cooperative Learning

Working Together, Solving Problems, and Accepting Differences in our Learning Community

One aspect of an education is learning how to function as a group member. My classroom is centered around group work and working well with other classmates. From Book Clubs, hands-on science experiments, complex instruction in math, to working together to solve a social problem you will find my students interacting and working together in an engaged and energetic manner.

I set up clear expectations to help my students work well together. I provide group roles and rules, and I combine the students together in a way that will promote diversity and allow for different ideas and background experiences to emerge and converge collectively; so it will enhance the activity.

It has been proven that promoting group work will not only find students to be more accepting of differences and sensitive to students with special needs, but group work also helps students perform higher on standardized tests because it involves a higher-level of thinking. Overall, I believe including cooperative learning in my classroom only enhances a student's education experience.

The Whole Child

Making Sure all Students are Challenged and their Needs are Met.

Another important aspect of teaching that you will find in my classroom is my use of **differentiation**. All classrooms have a wide range of skills and levels, which can be a challenging endeavor to address. To accomplish this challenge, my lessons are adapted to meet the variety of levels that are present in my classroom. I make sure, also, that all students are given high expectations and clear objectives so the *potential* that is in *every* child can be reached.

“The potential possibilities of any child are the most intriguing and stimulating in all creation.”

~ Richard Henry Dana



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My name is Anna Walters. I graduated from Michigan Stated University in 2006 with a degree in Elementary Education. Immediately following graduation, I did a yearlong internship in a fifth grade classroom and enjoyed the experience immensely. Currently, I am working as a 6th grade reading and math tutor in Avon Lake. I love being in the classroom and being able to work closely with young students. Their enthusiasm and energy never ceases to amaze me.

I also have two children of my own, a fourth grader and a preschooler. I enjoy reading, scrapbooking, creating digital home movies, going to the movies, and spending time with my family. I am always trying new things, such as developing websites, creating blogs, and producing digital stories that keeps me updated with the latest technology.

This brochure is to help familiarize you with my teaching philosophy and the methods I use to successfully manage a classroom of diverse learners. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.



“If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

~ Ignacio Estrada

Contribution

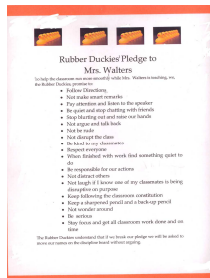
Getting Students Involved in Creating and Maintaining our Learning Community

When building my classroom's learning community I know that it is important to involve the students as much as possible. Students that understand and know the classroom rules and procedures have an easier time following them.

What better way to make sure my students know the procedures and rules than to work with them to come up with an agreed list together. This approach will give my students a sense of power and control over the environment they will be spending a great deal of time in and allow them to contribute to their learning community. My students need to know what I expect of them and working together to develop these expectations will empower my students to follow them.

Once the learning communities rules and procedures are established the students can contribute to maintaining the learning community. I believe involving the students in problem-solving and coming up with solutions during class meetings will help solidify their own importance and the value their opinions have in running a successful learning community.

Throughout the year, I also believe it is essential to make sure every student contributes to the everyday jobs that take place in the classroom. When students are personally involved in the success of their classroom they will be more eager to work hard at making sure their learning community runs smoothly.



Connecting

Making Sure all Students Have Positive Relationships in our Learning Community

I want my students to feel safe, valued, respected, and trusted in my classroom. They need to know that I am there to help them become **responsible citizens** in and out of the classroom. To do this I want to foster positive relationships with my students. I plan to do this by listening to my students. Students need to know that their feelings and opinions are respected and not ignored. It may not seem like a huge task, to listen, but when a student's concerns are listened to and addressed the student will know they are important. I want them to feel safe enough to come to me if they are having problems and by truly listening to them it will encourage them to do so.

More importantly than developing positive relationships with my students, I want my students to develop positive relationships with each other. How students interact with each other during the school day can greatly influence how well a student does in school, how involved a student is in school, and also affects their self-esteem. I will make sure my students care and respect each other by modeling appropriate behavior, stating clear expectations, and through cooperative learning activities.

As their teacher I will model for them how to treat others with respect. I will also make sure my expectations of how they are to treat others is clear and concise; so they are aware of how to correctly behave towards each other. I will give them plenty of opportunities to interact by allowing time for partner and group work activities. I want my students to learn how to get along with everyone and to accept diversity; it will be my job to make sure they are given the tools achieve to that goal.

Competence

Developing Confidence and Motivation Within Students That Allows Them to Succeed in our Learning Community

I want to create a learning community where my students feel **confident** that they will be successful. Each student brings with them a different learning style, different interests, and different temperaments. To be successful at ensuring my students are **competent** I will praise the successes each student experiences in my classroom by making sure they understand that to succeed they need to put forth an **effort**. I want my students to realize that they can be successful only if they put the effort into the task. All students have the ability to succeed and be competent inside and outside of school, it is my job to help them cultivate their skills for use so they are able to succeed.

Along side developing a sense of competence in my students I will, additionally, **motivate** them to learn. To motivate students I will make my lessons meaningful by connecting the lessons to their lives and their experiences. I will show them the value the lesson has on their life and the use the lesson provides for them. I want them to want to learn, see the value in learning, and how the end result will benefit them in the long run.

I believe one way to help students feel competent in the classroom is by making sure I continually monitor and track their progress. Throughout my lessons I feel it is important to keep track of how well my students are doing and if they are understanding the concepts being taught by giving them **authentic and appropriate assessments**. I want to know where my students stand before the final assessment so I can target any struggles they may have. I use my assessments as a way to measure my students progress and to help me alter my teaching where it needs to be.