

Classroom Environment

A well-organized classroom sets the stage for teaching and learning. Evaluate the effectiveness of your space.

- The layout of your classroom reflects your teaching style. (For example, if your instruction includes lots of group collaboration, did you arrange your students around tables or clusters of desks?)
- The physical environment reflects you and your personality. Don't hesitate to give the room your personal touch with plants, art, rugs, posters, etc.
- Frequently used items are easy to get to. Easily accessible materials and supplies can eliminate delays, disruptions, and confusion.
- You follow basic safety precautions:
 - High traffic areas are free of congestion.
 - Students' desks are always visible.
 - Art and sciences supplies — especially anything sharp or toxic — are stored safely.
 - Breakable items are displayed or stored in safe places.
 - Students are able to see instruction displays and presentation from the desks.
 - Students have space to store their belongings.
 - Electrical outlets are available, but frayed cords and other dangers are not.
 - Window and door exits are unobstructed.
 - Rugs are fastened down so no one trips.
 - Your name, class, and room number are posted on the classroom door where parents and students can easily see them.
- Your room incorporates many options to accommodate individual students' environmental preferences. Factors like temperature, lighting, and noise level affect students in different ways and are directly related to individual learning styles. Create both well-lit and dimly-lit areas in the room, help students become aware of how to dress to their own temperature preferences, etc.
- Your room decorations create energy and excitement about learning.

Helpful Resources:

- Class Set-Up Tool
http://teacher.scholastic.com/tools/class_setup/
- Classroom Organization: The Physical Environment
[http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/futureteachers/classroom_organization.htm]
- Eight Secrets of Class Design
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/classmgmt/classdesign.htm>