

Why Strict, Fair, Compassionate Accountability Makes You Popular With Students

By Michael Linsin on April 21, 2018

When a teacher first begins holding students accountable in the manner we recommend here at SCM, they're often surprised at the response they get from students.

Mind you, they aren't taken aback by the improved behavior nor better attentiveness.

For these were hoped for, if not expected.

But what knocks them for a loop are the hellos shouted halfway across campus.

What they can't quite wrap their head around are the broad smiles, the friendly banter, and the desire to get to know them better.

Not to mention the remarkable ease with which they're now able to build rapport.

You see, when you consistently hold students accountable according to rules and expectations you [lay out ahead of time](#), it makes you the most popular teacher at school.

Here's why:

They respect it.

Integrity is rare in this day and age.

So when students meet someone that actually does what they say they're going to do, they can't help but be affected. They can't help but to show a level of respect many have never felt toward another person.

This inevitably draws them into your circle of influence. It causes them to want to be around you and learn from you, especially if you combine it with a kind and pleasant demeanor.

It's a combination that imbues you with a powerful leadership presence and that awesome feeling of leverage when you *know* your students want to please you and behave for you – even if they're hellions with other teachers.

They appreciate it.

When you create a peaceful classroom environment, when students are free to learn and enjoy school without being interrupted, pestered, bothered, or bullied, they become profoundly appreciative.

They've all been in classrooms where this doesn't happen. They've all been in situations where they've had to navigate their way through entire years of chaos, rudeness, and ill behavior.

So when you take a stand for them, they recognize it.

They see the stark difference between a commonly run classroom and one that puts them first. And it means something to them deep down – something real and true and right.

They're liberated by it.

Once you prove to your students that the agreed-upon consequences are the only consequences, and that you're not going to lecture, scold, glare, admonish, or otherwise take their misbehavior personally, it frees them to truly enjoy your class.

It frees them to reflect and **take responsibility** for their mistakes and lets them know that your strict enforcement of the rules has nothing to do with how you feel about them.

This, in turn, safeguards your relationship with them. In fact, it makes their trust and belief in you, as well as your likability, even stronger.

Teaching The Way It Should Be

Accountability that is **promised by you** ahead of time, and based on your detailed teaching and modeling of what is and isn't okay, also frees you to love your class right back.

It frees you to teach with passion and laugh unencumbered and never, ever again create friction and animosity with your students – which makes building influential relationships much, much easier.

In fact, it makes it nearly effortless.

But you must be ever-vigilant in your supervision of your students. You must enforce your consequences **like a referee** rather than a judge.

You must allow your classroom management plan do its good work without your two-cents, a show of frustration, or any other added input.

So that your students will not only never hold your faithful accountability against you.

They'll love you for it.