



Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week! –

High Expectations and Positive Classroom Routines

We're off to a great start! I want to commend, and thank, the exceptional faculty and staff of Edward R. Murrow High School for the **CARE** that they provided to the over 3,600 students that entered our building last week. Thanks to your patience, your guidance, and your **CARE**, we were able to seamlessly transition to the spring semester and begin our lessons on day one. Kudos on a job well done! As we enter our first full week of instruction, let's keep that positive energy up by continuing to emphasize **high expectations** and **positive routines** in our classrooms.

As teachers, we always strive to help all students meet their greatest potential. By now, we all have spent the last few weeks reflecting on the fall semester to determine what has worked well and what adjustments and modifications we plan on implementing for the spring. Additionally, I'm sure you have analyzed your students' data as well as read through students' IEPs to assist you with your planning. When analyzing your data, please keep in mind that while you may have students who have struggled in the past, it is important that you keep those expectations high and build in the supports that will help all students meet those high expectations.

In addition to our efforts in creating a welcoming environment and careful planning that incorporates rigorous and engaging activities (as well as the supports needed) to promote high expectations in the classroom, it is important that we always remember that we have a captive audience in the classroom. Our founding principal, Mr. Saul Bruckner, once told me during my first year teaching, "Mr. Barge, remember that you are a role model for your students' emulation. If you put your best foot forward for each lesson, your students will do the same." From that point on, I understood the importance of cultivating the habit of hard work, positive routines, and high expectations in the classroom.

We have all spent a great deal of time "Knowing Every Student Well" (our priority focus) last semester and have seen the impact of the pandemic on many students: learning loss, social emotional needs, increased absences, struggles with routines and deadlines impacting work habits, etc. That is why every lesson matters and we must make the most of every moment that we have with our students. Establishing positive classroom routines helps to reinforce high expectations, creates a sense of urgency to come to class on time, and maximizes learning. Simply warmly greeting your students at the door and reminding students to take out their notebooks and immediately begin a Do Now/Motivation/Starter posted on the board/SMARTBOARD can help do just that. Others may have students take the lesson handout when they enter the classroom so they immediately start the opening task, while other teachers may have students log into their Google Classrooms to start the opening discussion question in Peardeck once they enter the room. Regardless of the routine, the point is that one is needed to set expectations high and maximize learning.

I wish you all a productive and meaningful semester and I look forward to visiting your classrooms to see the **CARE** that you provide each day to prepare our students for **COLLEGE, CAREER** and **LIFE**.

Have a **FANTABULOUS** semester!

... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!