

NOTES

regularly by student and teacher alike. It's not doing something one way today and a different way tomorrow. The routine must consist of a set of customary and often mechanically performed procedures or activities that students can learn, know, and follow. Students cannot have doubts about your routines. Routines must include the behavior expected of students with each routine. Whether it's turning in a paper, going to recess, going to lunch, or returning from an assembly, your routine must include what and how students will do it and the expected behavior when they do.

Classroom strategies are the third element. These are the methods, techniques, and skills you will employ in your teaching to accomplish the work and mission of the classroom. You can't habitually use the "stand-up, sit down, raise your hand while I lecture" method and expect high morale, superb behavior, and high levels of learning. Therefore, you must decide how you will teach to reach all students and how you will convey this vital information to students. For instance, students must know you will change the arrangement of the room to facilitate the lesson being taught, always have a review before a test, and assign special work when problems are experienced. You will need to explain to students the various strategies you will use to increase learning so that they are expected and never come as a surprise. The more students know and understand about your teaching strategies, the more they will be positioned to accept and follow your lead. Strategies also need to be employed when structures and routines are not working.

THE MASTER TEACHER KNOWS THAT WELL-DESIGNED CLASSROOM STRUCTURES, ROUTINES, AND STRATEGIES ALLOW LEARNING TO PROCEED.

The Master Teacher is aware that managing a lesson plan is one task, but the task of managing a group of students and teaching all of them is much more complex and difficult. And without classroom structures, routines, and strategies designed so that learning can proceed without interruption, our ship is never ready to sail. One thing is certain: When we perfect these skills, teaching and learning will always improve.