**Classroom Management Model**

**Classroom Rules**

1. **Be respectful of yourself and others.**
   1. High functioning groups and organizations of any kind operate on a matter of trust and respect.
2. **Be respectful and responsible with equipment.**
   1. Musical equipment is expensive, we do not want anything to be broken or misused. Following this rule keeps any misunderstandings or incidents of breakage from happening.
3. **Never assume, if you are unsure ask!**
   1. There is nothing wrong with asking to clarify directions or assignments, or travel plans. If you do not know and assume you do know, something could go very wrong.
4. **If it is not yours, unless you have permission, leave it alone.**
   1. Musical equipment is expensive, we do not want anything to be broken or misused. Following this rule keeps any misunderstandings or incidents of breakage from happening.
5. **Keep yourself and each other accountable.**
   1. This doesn’t mean be a tattletale, it just means follow the rules and respectfully remind your peers of them, if someone is not following them.

**Philosophical Approach**

My approach to misbehavior is really dependent on the severity of the offence. If a student disrupts class with a joke, entering late, or any other small issue. A simple verbal warning will be given, or if the joke is appropriate I will probably chime in and laugh. A bit of laughter is never a problem as long as it does not derail the class.

If a student is overtly disruptive or disrespectful I will ask them to leave the classroom. No exceptions (excluding students with disabilities, emergencies, etc.). This may seem severe, however in order to be the best ensemble we can be, we must operate with a sense of mutual respect and understanding. This includes classroom order and conduct. I will be sure to tell the students upfront of these rules. It is unfair to blindside the students with being kicked out of the classroom. I’m also not a “crack the whip” kind of person, however I am able to turn the funny/serious on and off very quickly. Most 14-18 year olds are not. That being said I have no intention of shaming any students or treating any students poorly. If I have to ask a student to leave class, then okay; however the next day they will be welcomed into the room just as any other student would be. Students mess up. That does not make them bad; it just means a poor decision was made.

**Classroom Anecdote**

Over the last four years I have been a member of the Blue Valley Northwest High School marching band staff, in Overland Park, KS. I had a very interesting experience with a student in that organization and the band directors, while monitoring it, wanted to see how/if I could handle the situation.

**Background**

This student was a very academically high achieving student, very musically apt. He was not the best, but definitely one of the best. At the time of this incident he was a junior in high school, 16-17 years old. The incident occurred during a marching band rehearsal.

**Description of Incident**

This particular student decided to use some pretty inappropriate sexualizing terms to describe another member of the staff, a woman. I and a few other members of the staff overheard and they were not sure how to handle it. I knew how to handle it so I talked to the directors to be sure I was not stepping on any toes or going beyond my prevue.

**Discipline Measure Used**

I spoke with this student and made sure I heard him out and discussed what I heard him say to make sure I had not missed context, not like context makes it any better but I’m only a few years older than these students and I’m trying not to upset and parents. The student was required, by the band directors (per my suggestion), to issue a formal (written and verbal) apology to the staff member. They were also not allowed to speak to the staff member again, and the student’s parents were contacted. (The phrases used were extremely inappropriate).

**Assessment**

I have no critique of the band directors’ decision. I would probably have handled it a bit more aggressively and turned the student off the band. That is not the goal; the goal was to teach the student what they did wrong and not to do it again. I feel this goal was met.