The Motivating Classroom
Motivation: What is it?
Motivation

“That within a person that inspires that person to action.”

Motivated students persist.
Please think of the most motivating teacher you ever had.

What was the one quality that made that teacher motivating?
$E^5 \times C^6 = \text{Motivating Classroom}$
The Characteristics of a Motivating Classroom

- Expertise
- Empathy
- Energy
- Enthusiasm
- Easily Understood
The Characteristics of a Motivating Classroom

- Community
- Clear Expectations
- Control
- Choice
- Chances to Succeed
- Credit for Effort and Achievement
Expertise:

“The Power of Knowledge and Preparation”
What is it that a teacher needs to know?

What is it that a teacher must know how to do?
We know our subject matter well.

We are prepared to convey our knowledge in an “edutaining” way.
What are some specific ways teachers can be “edutaining?”
- A relaxed familiarity with the subject matter.
- A well planned lesson that addresses multiple learning styles and intelligences.
Empathy:

“The Power of Understanding and Consideration”
Obtain a realistic understanding of the students’ needs and expectations.

Adapt instruction to the learners’ levels of experience and skill development.

Continuously consider the learners’ perspective.
What is a way to determine what the students actually need and expect?

What are some things that work best for slower learners?

What are some things that work best for faster learners?
Share something of value with the students

- Appropriate humor
- Personal involvement with subject
- Current events dealing with the subject matter
- Provide individual attention
Energy:

“The Power of Positive Performance”
Teachers must be energetic sales persons.

Students need to know why they should buy the information the teacher is selling.

Energy reinforces believability.
What are specific things a teacher can do to demonstrate that they have “energy?”
Enthusiasm

“The Power of Commitment and Animation”
For students, how information is delivered is as important as the information being delivered.
Through expressing appropriate degrees of emotion and animation.

It is difficult to disregard an animated person.

Alertness naturally enhances learning.
Easily Understood

“The Power of Language and Organization”
Instruction must be clear to the learner in order to be absorbed by the learner.

Teach to various learning styles and personality profiles.
Teachers must provide learners with alternative ways to comprehend what has been taught if they did not master it the first time.
Language
Use terms, examples analogies and references that are clear to the learner.
Organization

- Establish relationships in the material being covered.
  - Logical connections
  - Linked to prior learning
  - Linked to career choice
Create Community
Establish Expectations
Craft Consequences
Provide Options
Inspiration works better than Coercion
As a student in Our School

As a part of Our Program

As a teammate in My Classroom
Students need to work with each other and be responsible to each other

Success requires cooperation
Allow students **input into decisions** about what they will do to master the objectives.

Decisions can be collective or individual, though individual decisions impact motivation more strongly:

- Which assignments to do?
- Oral or written reports?
- Individual or group projects?
- More or fewer tests or test items?
- Essay or objective tests?
Establish Expectations

What students can expect from:

- The college
- The teacher
- Making good choices
What do you think should students should expect from their classmates?

How can a teacher ensure this happens?
Good things happen when ....

Good things could include:
- More fun
- Better grades
- Greater understanding
- Recognition
- Career success
Craft Consequences

Less favorable things happen when students...
Students are far more likely to take ownership and responsibility if they have:

- Choices
- A sense of control
- Personal participation
Reward the behavior you want

Withhold rewards when behavior is withheld

Be judicious with negative actions
- Community
- Clear Expectations
- Control
- Choice
- Chances to Succeed
- Credit for Effort and Achievement