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EDUC4343

Milton Reflection

Summary

We had Mrs. Lauren Milton speak to our class today. She is in charge of staff development at Longview ISD. She’s been both a classroom teacher and principal in her years of teaching experience. She shared with the class about general classroom management. She started by showing us some helpful books that give good, proven strategies for dealing with classroom management.

Reflection

Some of Mrs. Milton’s ideas that really stuck with me the most are how to not put down other teachers in front of students, regardless of the issue. She expanded that to include putting down other content areas. She offered the alternative of “If you’ve ever been bored with \_\_\_ …” if you’re going to reference another subject as “boring” or lacking in any way. Mrs. Milton also emphasized the importance of having rules and procedures as well as maintaining that “teacher face” and “teacher voice”. In the military this is known as a “command voice”. It is a tone of voice that commands respect and makes others listen up. You can never be accused of being timid or hard to hear if you’re using a proper “command voice”. It’s not yelling or being loud, but having a good, crowd-controlling tone of voice. Another of Mrs. Milton’s ideas is how to handle students coming to class unprepared. I liked her story about a student that was always unprepared and she let him go to his locker, in exchange for a tardy.

Reaction

I loved hearing from Mrs. Milton. I hope that future classes get the opportunity to hear from her (and Mrs. Cooper). These are non-textbook lessons that need to be learned, but hard to really nail down in a curriculum. They are great additions to our core curriculum. I’ve enjoyed drawing from as many educators’ experiences as possible.

Questions: What was/is the hardest skill to master as a new teacher? What was/is the hardest part of teaching that you struggle with?