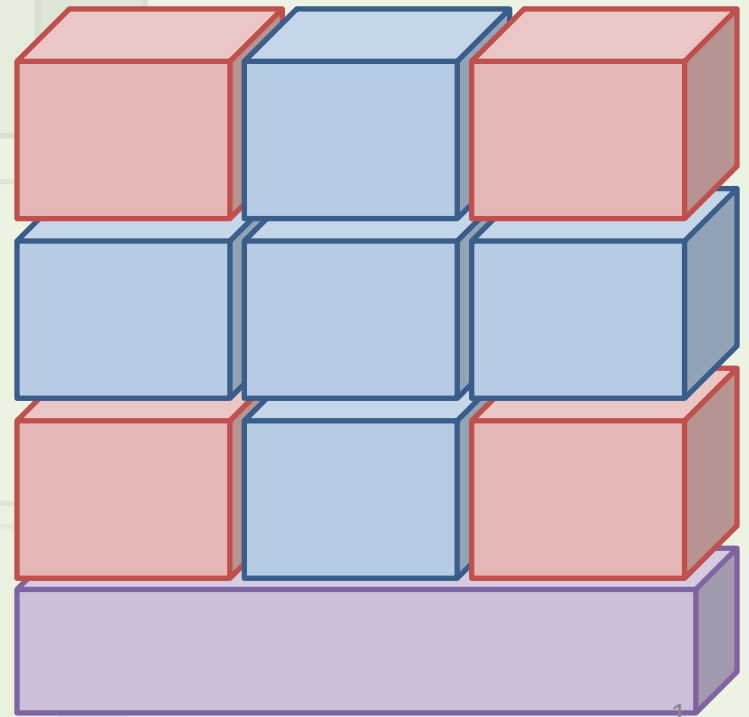


# The Thoughtful Classroom Teacher Effectiveness Framework

**Deepening the  
Cornerstones**

Presented by Cindy Weber  
Regional Director, Thoughtful Classroom



# The Four Cornerstones and Tools For Putting Them Into Place



# (Adapted) Four Cornerstones Essential Questions Form

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Organization, Rules, and Procedures</b></p> <p>How does the teacher organize the classroom to enhance learning and establish rules and procedures that clarify expectations?</p> | <p><b>Positive Relationships</b></p> <p>How does the teacher build meaningful relationships with the students and among students to promote learning?</p> |
| <p><b>A Culture of Thinking and Learning</b></p> <p>How does the teacher develop a classroom culture that promotes serious learning and sophisticated forms of thinking?</p>           | <p><b>Engagement and Enjoyment</b></p> <p>How does the teacher motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?</p>              |

# The Four Cornerstones





- ✓ The non-negotiables of a truly successful learning environment
- ✓ The universal elements we find in all highly effective classrooms

Thus, laying these foundations down early is the key to a successful school year.

# The Four Cornerstones

Let's examine the Four Cornerstones in greater depth.

For each cornerstone, we devised an essential question that clarifies the goal of the cornerstone and that can help focus your thinking about how to create the best learning environment possible.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Organization, Rules, and Procedures<br> | Positive Relationships<br>    |
| A Culture of Thinking and Learning<br> | Engagement and Enjoyment<br> |

# The Four Cornerstones

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Organization, Rules, and Procedures</b></p> <p>How do you organize your classroom to enhance learning and establish rules and procedures that clarify expectations?</p> | <p><b>Positive Relationships</b></p> <p>How do you build meaningful relationships with your students and among students to promote learning?</p> |
| <p><b>A Culture of Thinking and Learning</b></p> <p>How do you develop a classroom culture that promotes serious learning and sophisticated forms of thinking?</p>            | <p><b>Engagement and Enjoyment</b></p> <p>How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?</p>               |

What do you notice about the language in each essential question?

What are some key words they have in common?

# The Four Cornerstones

Organization  
, Rules, and  
Procedures

Positive  
Relationships

A Culture of  
Thinking and  
Learning

Engagement  
and  
Enjoyment

Let's take a look at some of the key challenges and goals associated with each cornerstone—and some tools that address these challenges and goals.

# Thinking About Your Current Practices

- How are you already working to reinforce each cornerstone in your classroom?
- Which cornerstones might need more attention?



**Organization, Rules, and Procedures**

How do you organize your classroom to enhance learning and establish rules and procedures that clarify expectations?

**Preparing Students for New Learning**

**Positive Relationships**

How do you build meaningful relationships with your students and among students to promote learning?

**Deepening and Reinforcing Learning**

**Acting on and Celebrating Learning**

**Organization, Rules, and Procedures**  
How do you organize your classroom to enhance learning and establish rules and procedures that clarify expectations?

**A Culture of Thinking and Learning**

How do you develop a classroom culture that promotes serious learning and sophisticated forms of thinking?

**Engagement and Enjoyment**

How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?

# A Quote to Think About

*Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.*

—A. A. Milne



What does this quote mean to you? How does it relate to a successful classroom?



Pause and think



Jot down at least two responses.



Compare your responses with a neighbor.

# **CORNERSTONE ONE: Organization, Rules, and Procedures**

## **A Challenge:**

A challenge in this cornerstone lies in the fact that when students are asked, “What does it mean to be a good student?”, the overwhelming number of students will reply with answers like these:

**“To be well behaved”**

**“To listen to your teacher”**

# A Tool for Building **Cornerstone One**

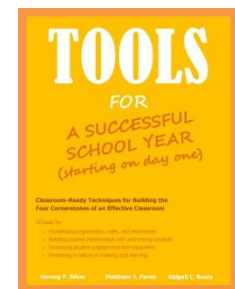
Yes, good behavior and listening to teachers is important, but in a thoughtful classroom we expect more.

The Thoughtful Classroom has only two rules:

- 1. Be the best student you can be, and learn as much as possible.**
- 2. Make the classroom a good place for everyone to live and learn.**

# How Do you Organize Your Classroom to Enhance Learning?

1. What routines have you taught your students to ensure transitions are smooth and efficient?
2. How does your classroom routines support student ownership and independence?
3. How does the physical arrangement of your classroom allow for cooperative and independent learning activities?



**Organization, Rules, and Procedures**

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**Preparing Students for New Learning**

**Positive Relationships**

How do you build meaningful relationships with your students and among students to promote learning?

**Deepening and Reinforcing Learning**

**Reflecting on and Celebrating Learning**

**Positive Relationships**  
How do you build meaningful relationships with your students and among students to promote learning?

**A Culture of Thinking and Learning**

**Engagement and Enjoyment**

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How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?

# CORNERSTONE TWO: Positive Relationships

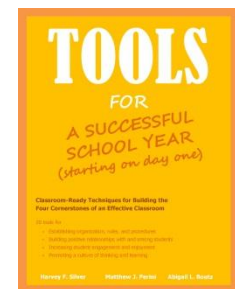
A Gallup Youth Poll asked students to think about when they learn best.

What do you think the number one response was?

“I learn best in classes where the teacher respects and cares about me.”

# How Do You Build Meaningful Relationships With and Among Students

1. What can you conclude about the climate in your classroom? How does it support student learning?
2. How do you ensure your classroom is an emotionally safe place for students to share confusions or questions about what they are learning?
3. How do you differentiate instruction to meet different learning needs? Is there anything you would do differently?





**Organization, Rules, and Procedures**

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**Deepening and Reinforcing Learning**

**Reflecting on and Celebrating Learning**

**Engagement and Enjoyment**

How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?

**A Culture of Thinking and Learning**

**Engagement and Enjoyment**

How do you develop a classroom culture that promotes serious learning and sophisticated forms of thinking?

How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?

Engagement is obviously a central aspect of effective teaching. If students are not engaged, there is little, if any, chance that they will learn what is being addressed in class.

— Robert J. Marzano and Debra J. Pickering, *The Highly Engaged Classroom*

# CORNERSTONE THREE:

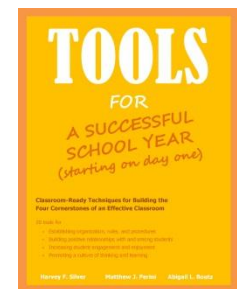
## Engagement and Enjoyment

“Teaching and learning should be joyful. Students should look forward to coming to school each day. Teachers should look forward to coming to school each day. And when students and teachers look forward to walking through those school doors each day, it should be the work that inspires us and gets our blood pumping. Not pizza parties. Not grades. Not pep rallies. And certainly not standardized tests. The work itself should be inherently rewarding—worthy of our time, attention, and maximum effort.

—Mike Anderson, *Learning to Choose, Choosing to Learn: The Key to Student Motivation & Achievement* (2016)

# How Do You Motivate Your Students To Do Their Best Work

1. What are some ways to increase student engagement in your classroom?
2. How do you ensure that students see and understand connections between “fun” activities and the underlying concepts of the lesson?
3. What evidence do you have that students are deeply engaged in the lesson?



# How Can You Use the Eight Cs in Your Classroom?

Let's work together to generate some possible ideas...

Competition

Choice

Challenge

Creativity

Curiosity

Cooperation

Controversy

Connections

- Aim to include *at least one* C in every lesson.
- Vary the Cs you use so that you engage *all* students.

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How do you motivate students to do their best work and inspire the love of learning?

# Helping Students Develop the Habits of Good Thinkers

There are some habits of mind that are so integral to good thinking that we want to instill them in our students starting on the very first day of school.

What are some habits of mind that you believe are this important?

# What Habits are Essential, Starting on Day One?

\_\_\_\_\_ is an essential habit of mind because...

\_\_\_\_\_ is an essential habit of mind because...

\_\_\_\_\_ is an essential habit of mind because...

\_\_\_\_\_ is an essential habit of mind because...



The evidence habit is of the utmost importance because...

- New state assessments require students to support their claims with relevant and sufficient evidence.
- 21<sup>st</sup> century learning requires students to develop and understand arguments.
- Democratic ideals require debate and discussion supported by evidence.
- It helps people understand each other when they communicate.
- It's a hallmark of good thinking, plain and simple.

# How Do You Develop a Classroom Culture That Promotes Serious Learning and Sophisticated Forms of Thinking?

1. How do your lessons reflect the standards you chose to address?
2. How do the instructional strategies you chose match the intellectual rigor of the content you are teaching?
3. In what ways do you give all your students an equal opportunity to consider and generate an initial response to your essential question(s).
4. How do you decide what would be an effective device for engaging all your students?
5. How do you introduce essential vocabulary and make connections to your students' prior knowledge?

