

Volusia Classroom Management

Creating a positive classroom environment structured for success.

Elementary Edition!

Tip of the Week

Attention Signals

Much like an orchestra conductor uses a signal (tapping the podium) to get the musicians to cease their individual warm up activities and pay attention, teachers need an effective way to gain their students' full attention.

While there are hundreds of fun attention signal ideas to choose from, keep in mind these best practices:

The signal has both a visual and auditory component.

Students need to be able to see the signal if they are engaged in a listening activity, and hear the signal if their eyes are engaged elsewhere.

The signal is mobile.

You must be able to use the signal anywhere within the classroom and on campus.

The signal is taught and modeled explicitly for students.

Be sure to model perfect and imperfect student responses.

Students have the opportunity to practice their response to the signal.

It is recommended to practice every day during the first few weeks of school.

Teacher gives feedback and praise consistently.

This is the most important step! Always praise students for doing the attention signal procedure correctly.

The class reviews and practices the attention signal as needed.

Your goal is to receive all students' attention within five seconds. If this does not occur, it's time to reteach your expectations and increase feedback.

