



# IDEAS to go...

## **Set Expectations for Learning**

Every period, I write directions on the board telling students what they must do to be prepared for the lesson. I also write a sentence or two letting them know what they will be able to do at the end of class. These steps prepare and engage my students from the moment they enter the classroom, while the listed directions and expectations give focus and a sense of purpose and success. Engaged students are less likely to misbehave!

*Jacqueline Lydy, National Board Certified Teacher, Lake Katrine, NY*

## **Lucky Chance Jar Incentive**

Sometimes students need an incentive to behave or try harder. I use the "Lucky Chance Jar." Every day I pick two students from each class who did a good job (listened well, gave insightful comments, or changed behaviors from the previous day). I tell the whole class who I picked and why, and then I write each name on a slip of paper and place it in the jar. Every Friday I draw five names for each from the jar. Those students choose an item from a Prize Box. They love it and it keeps them motivated! Tips:

- Pick two students from each class. (I do this for four separate English classes.)
- Color code or use a separate jar for each class. I use a different color of paper for each class and place all the names in one jar.
- Change out the prizes periodically so that there's always a chance for something new; this helps motivate students.

*Beth Saultz, Mahopac Middle School English Teacher, Mahopac, NY*

## **In Special Ed Classroom**

In my special education classroom of six adolescent students with multiple disabilities, including blindness, Cerebral Palsy, and specific learning disabilities, I've found that the key to effective classroom management is to use both group activities and individual instruction. Pairing a higher-functioning student with a lower-functioning one in a particular academic area also works because teamwork minimizes inappropriate behaviors.

*Alysa Chadow, Special Education Teacher, Alameda, California*

# ***classroom management***

What ideas have worked for you? Send them to [NewsEditor@kdp.org](mailto:NewsEditor@kdp.org).