Keeping Students Active and Engaged

​I believe that one of the hardest battles with student motivation is keeping the students engaged and active during a lesson. Not all of the content we teach is super exciting, and that's just the hard truth. But, there are ways that a teacher can help keep their students motivated in the classroom. These are just a few of the ideas I would like to implement into my future classroom.

While teacher instruction is needed in a functioning classroom, it is important that we keep the student participation up during all of our lessons. Students will be more motivated to keep up with what you are talking about if there is a chance you may call on them to share at any moment. There will always be those four or five students that always have their hands raised, and that's great! However, in my future classroom I would like to make it a goal that I make a point to call on other students without their hands raised as well. A common phrase I heard in my first grade clinical from students who were clearly in "la la land" was "I didn't have my hand raised." I believe it is good to get students in the primary grades used to the fact that they need to be paying attention at all times so that they could answer a question at any point of the lesson if called on.

I believe that academic choice is a big part of keeping our students active and engaged. It is no surprise that students typically are more engaged in an activity if they are choosing to do it. If the lesson allows, I plan on giving my students the choice of how they achieve the lesson's goals. Every student is different and differentiation is the key to keeping students engaged in their schoolwork.

When students feel that what they are doing matters, they will be more inclined to put hard work in. I believe a good way of doing this in my future classroom would be to display my students' work in some way to other people. This could look like displaying a writing that the students did in the hallway. In an upper grade, the students could create a classroom newsletter that they know will be going out to the families of the class. Many students will be motivated to do solid work because they want their peers to see that they are producing quality work.

My Motivational Tips for the Classroom

* Academic Choice
* Create a class newsletter
* Take a field trip
* Have a guest speaker
* Create healthy competition