My Philosophy of Student Discipline.

Preparation is key in every aspect of teaching. It is especially important when talking about that of student discipline. In order for a student to give respect I believe that he/she must receive it as well. Students are more apt to give respect if they receive respect first. By giving respect, I would begin by setting up the classroom in a non-traditional way. This will assist with my students feeling comfortable and open with communication, as it is an English class which incorporates class discussion as a key instructional method of teaching and learning. Also, the walls and bulletin boards of my classroom will be covered with English related, educational materials to pique the interest of the students. During the first week of classes, a set of rules and expectations will be discussed with the students. Included in this would be that of: 1) When the bell rings, students must be seated or they are considered late; 2) Come prepared with a writing utensil, student notebook, a reading book available at all times and whichever English book students are working out of for that day. 3) Students must raise their hands when asking questions, asking to move seats, etc. I’d also open this for a discussion to the students on what expectations they have for me as their teacher and for the rest of the students in their class. Giving respect also includes discussing with students that of my open door policy, where they are able to come to me and discuss discrepancies, grades, etc. before or after class or before or after school. Also, sometime within the first week of classes, students will fill out note cards with information about themselves and I will then go around and pick up the cards talking to each student (making a connection with them right away) about their interests, etc.

When conflict does arise, which I’m certain as time passes something will occur needing my attention, I am one rarely to raise my voice and yell. I believe that it is not necessary to yell and more than likely will cause more conflict and increase the level of conflict then resolve the issue at hand. Instead, I would first give a ‘class reminder’ and relate it back to the rules and expectations previously set by the class, this may be enough for some disciplinary issues. Other approaches include approaching the student and talking to them one on one in the classroom quietly or ask them to come talk to me at my desk. I also document everything in a disciplinary log. This helps to discover patterns over periods of time and will better prepare myself for future actions. It also allows me to keep track for possible parent/teacher conferences, administration conferences, etc. I rarely give out detention or ISC slips because I feel it’s more important to have the student learning in my classroom then not being there one or more days and missing out on the educational instruction given.

Every situation and student is unique and different methods work on some and not on others. I keep this in mind, which is one reason why I feel making a connection with the students and getting to know them as a person is extremely important in the discipline area.