

MAKE YOUR DAY

A SCHOOL-WIDE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS
TEACHERS TO TEACH AND ALLOWS STUDENTS TO LEARN

The following is a repeat, but seemed worth revisiting, especially for the new teachers.



Lessons Learned as a First Year Teacher

I am a first-year teacher implementing Make Your Day this year in a sixth grade classroom. I feel that one of my MAJOR mistakes at the beginning of the year was not initially allowing students permission to go to Step IV as they "climbed the steps." I think what this did in my classroom was reduce "respect for the steps" and lead to an attitude on behalf of my students that they could climb up to Step II or III (or sometimes even, regrettably IV) without any concern for a more severe consequence (e.g. Step IV). I was in the mindset that parents would be upset if I talked to them on a IV conference for "just" walking up the steps, but the result in my classroom has been that now I have to spend more time with discipline and more time with Steps (it takes more time to walk a student down from III than I).

I was wrong and I now explain to parents that their child who has "walked up the steps" had three chances to correct his behavior and am confident about my decision to allow Step IV. Nevertheless, I think my mistake is one that other first-year teachers might make as well and one that, if avoided, will lead to a better instructional environment with MYD.

Anthony LaMesa

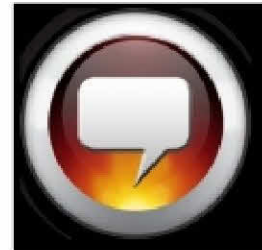
Stephanie Lyon, a teacher in Washington, graciously gave us permission to use this...

I attended your MYD training this summer, and we are in our



second month of MYD. This morning I had to put myself on Step 1 for shadowing, but there is a funny story along with it. One of my students was a bit livelier than usual. As a result, he entered the classroom, put away his backpack, and proceeded to his seat by hopping on one foot across the front of the classroom while continuously armpit farting. I met him at his seat, and began (in a quiet, businesslike tone) "Step 1, " at this point I burst out laughing and could not manage to state "armpit farting" without laughing. I then announced that I was placing myself in Step 1 for shadowing, but would need to grab another teacher first. (Luckily, there was someone in the hall who agreed to do my Step conference). It turned out to be a great teaching moment for my class!

Along with student and teacher quotes in reference to Make Your Day, we would like to gather parent quotes. If quotes come your way that you feel would be helpful to the schools that use MYD, please forward them to us. When we use a person's name, we always ask that person for permission prior to publishing their quote. Thanks for your help.



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