



Is 7 Habits Learning a Big Rock for Your Classroom?

October 15, 2018

Leadership. It's a Big Rock. The first thing to go on our agenda, right? We know it should be, but it can be a real challenge to keep leadership front and center, to take regular class time to teach the 7 Habits®. Take a minute to ask yourself, "Does our class treat leadership as a priority or as an afterthought? Is it something we wish we had time for, but feel we don't?"

What would you fill your time with if you had more time to fill? If your answer is "more of the same" (you'd use your extra time to cover standards!) that's a lot like saying the solution to a cluttered supply closet is a second supply closet! What we need is a system that helps us use our time more effectively. It's possible, even in the busiest classrooms. Skeptical? Check out these approaches and try out an idea or two in your classroom.

1) Make a Daily Commitment.

Morning Announcements. Kick off each day with a schoolwide 7 Habits connection on the school's news show. Make it interactive, giving opportunities for viewers to turn and talk following the broadcast. Hallway Huddle. Come together as a grade level out in the hallway. Try a team-building activity connected to the 7 Habits.

Class Meetings. Set aside 15 minutes each day for a class meeting. After reviewing the class mission statement and sharing any important announcements, use Student Leadership Guides, a structured calendar, or inspirational quotes to dig deeper!

2) Make a Weekly Commitment.

Make-It-Happen Monday, WIG® Wednesday, or Finish-It Friday. If a daily class meeting is out of the question, consider making the class meeting a weekly event. Try incorporating a student-led “Habit Moment” and time to recommit to class or individual WIGs.

Related Arts or Specials Rotation. Students may study leadership as part of an enrichment rotation. Think about a weekly 45-60 minute course dedicated to direct instruction.

Class Buddies. Partner upper-grade classes with lower-grade classes. Step back as more mature students lead out on Teach to Learn opportunities.

3) Make a Monthly Commitment.

Town Hall or Synergy Assemblies. Make a trek to the gym or the media center for a schoolwide assembly. Invite different grade levels to use skits or videos to teach the 7 Habits.

Club Days. Use a clubs system to offer students access to opportunities to learn about different leadership skills, such as public speaking or community service.

In-House Field Trips. Instead of devoting a full day to an off-campus field trip, plan a series of twelve 30-minute in-house field trips. Think about visits that tap into community or school leaders or virtual-learning opportunities.

Treating leadership as a Big Rock is an investment. The commitments we make to teaching leadership increase student independence and help us create more time for other things. What will your commitment be?

Learn More

Learn more about Student Leadership Guides—a fantastic resource to help students learn about the 7 Habits.

Classroom Resources

Direct instruction is about more than developing knowledge around the 7 Habits. Consider including a 7 Habits Scenario Role Play to move up the level of student application.