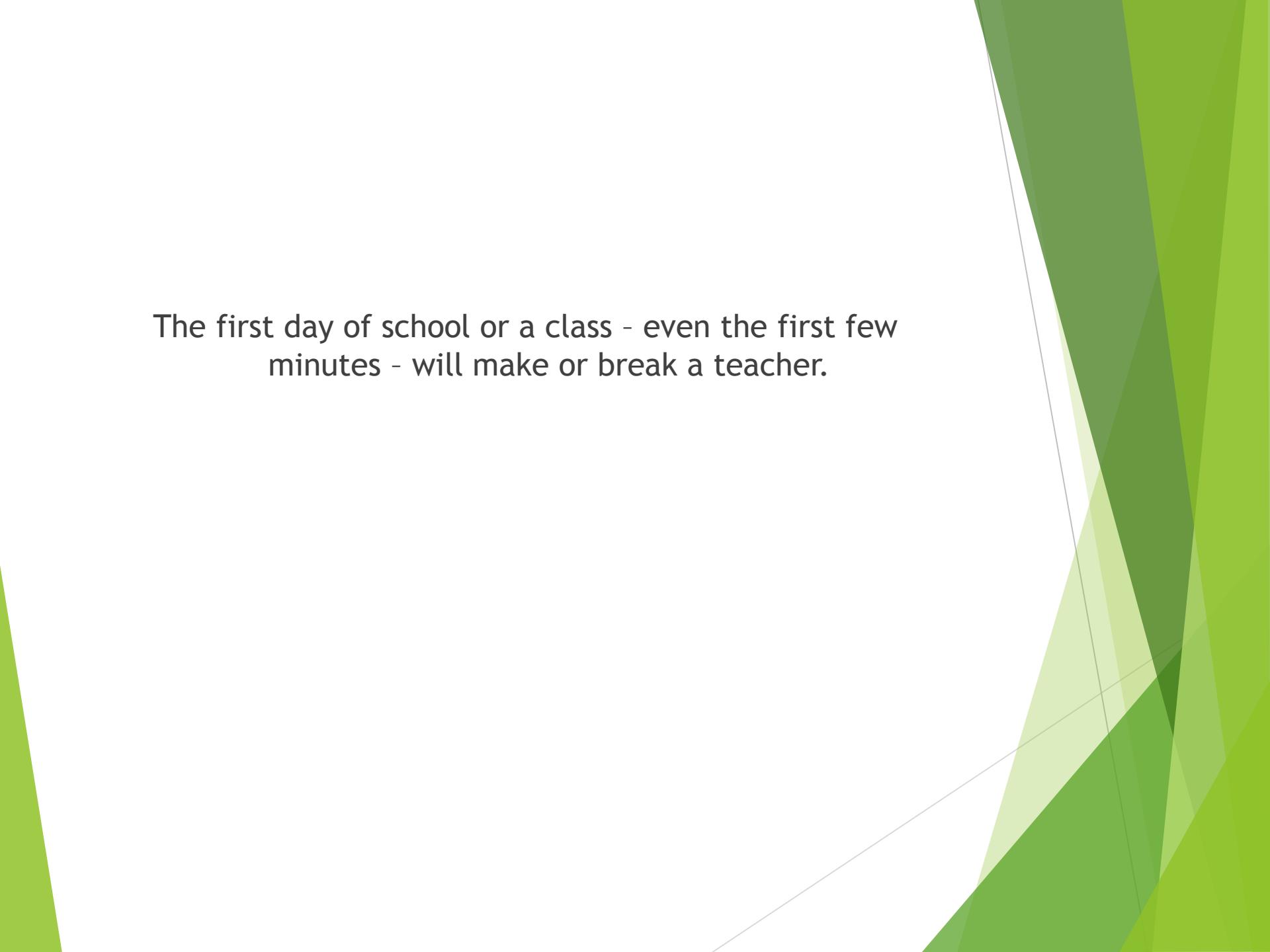


First Days of School

Based on the Book

by Harry Wong

What you do the first days of school will determine your success or failure for the rest of the school year. You will either win or lose your class on the first days of school.

The background of the slide features a geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of green. The triangles are oriented at different angles, creating a dynamic and layered effect. The colors range from light lime green to dark forest green.

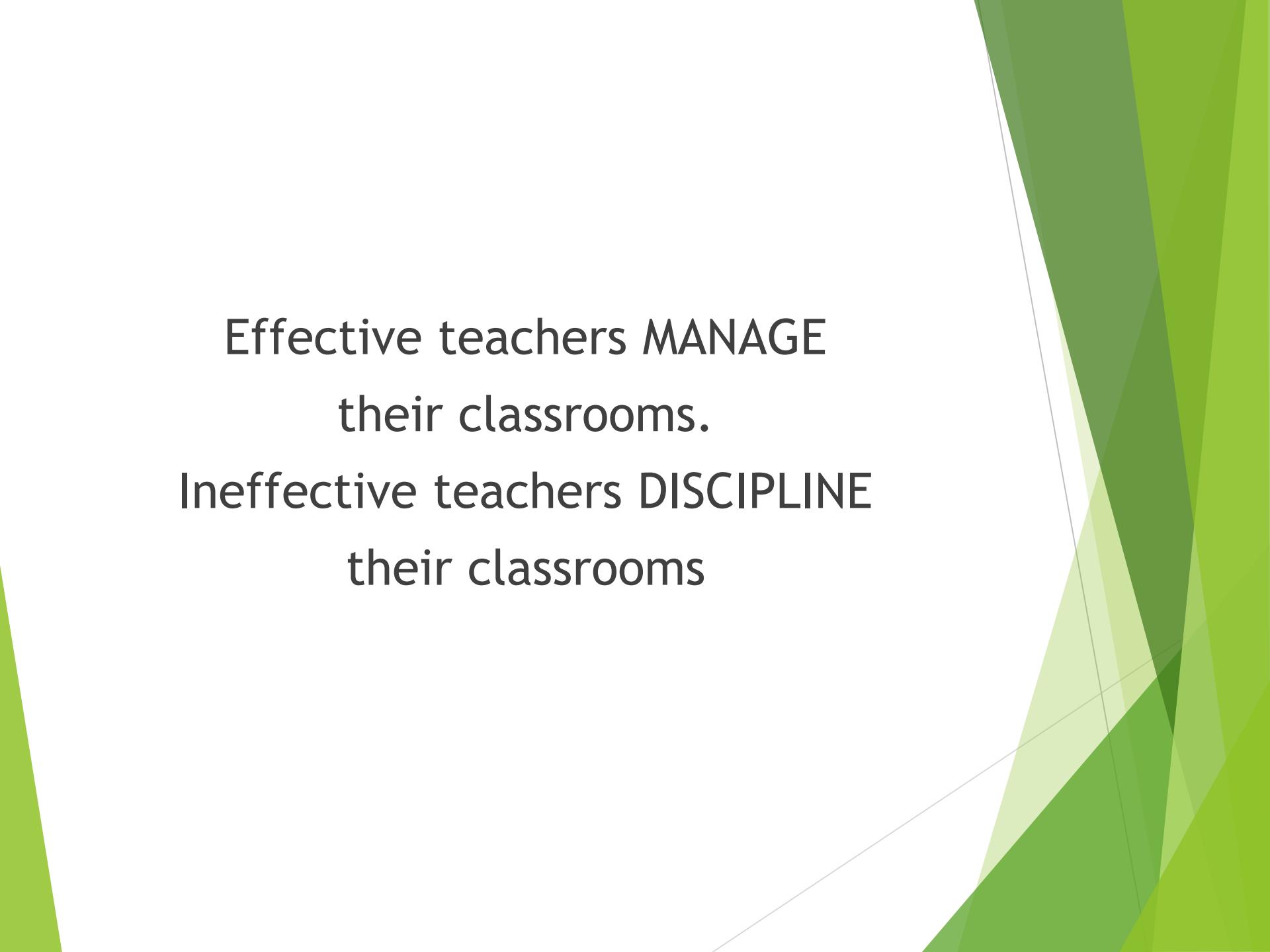
The first day of school or a class - even the first few minutes - will make or break a teacher.

The First Year of Teaching Can Be Frightening

- ▶ Teacher education will not have prepared you.
- ▶ Student teaching will not have prepared you.
- ▶ The district may not have prepared you.
- ▶ Yet you will be expected to perform immediately.

The Five Significant Concepts That Enhance Positive Expectations

- ▶ When you address a student, use the student's name.
- ▶ Say please
- ▶ Say thank you
- ▶ Smile
- ▶ Love

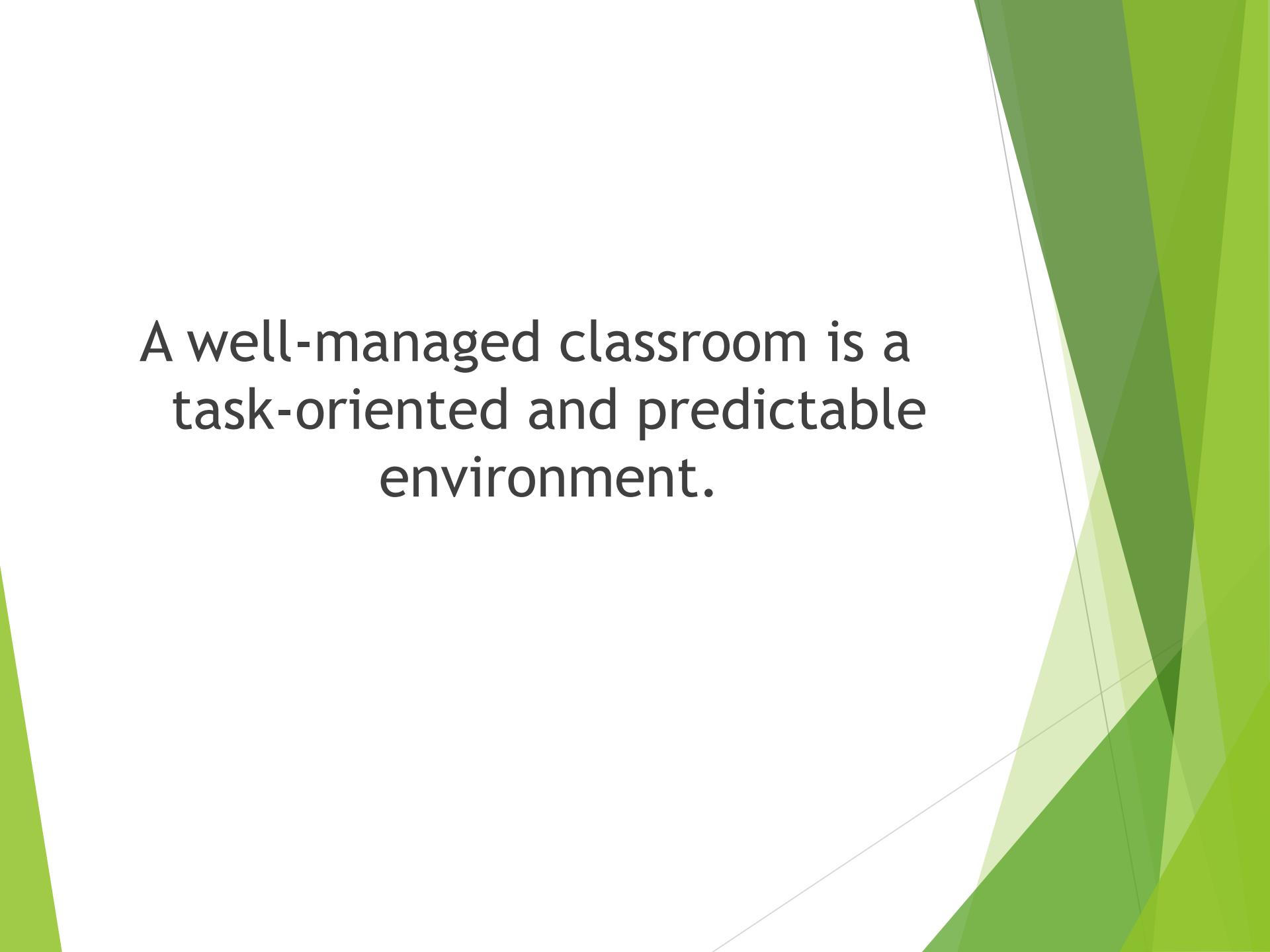


**Effective teachers MANAGE
their classrooms.**

**Ineffective teachers DISCIPLINE
their classrooms**

The Characteristics of a Well-Managed Classroom

- ▶ Students are deeply involved with their work, especially with academic, teacher-led instruction.
- ▶ Students know what is expected of them and are generally successful.
- ▶ There is relatively little wasted time, confusion, or disruption.
- ▶ The climate of the classroom is work-oriented, but relaxed and pleasant.



A well-managed classroom is a task-oriented and predictable environment.

You greatly increase the probability that school will start successfully for both you and your students when these four points are true:

- ▶ You have your room ready.
- ▶ You are at the door.
- ▶ You have assigned seats.
- ▶ You have the first assignments ready.

How to Introduce Yourself

- ▶ Call parents BEFORE the school year begins.
- ▶ Stand at your classroom with a big smile and a ready handshake.
- ▶ Tell them your name, room number, class, and anything else that might be appropriate. (Post that information outside the door.)

Seating Chart and First Assignment

- ▶ Have their names written on a seating chart transparency that is projected onto a screen.
- ▶ As students go to their assigned seat, inform them that they will find their first assignment on the board. Tell them to start to work on it immediately!
- ▶ The first assignment should be short, maybe interesting, easy to complete, and successful for all students.
- ▶ Ask any student who enters the room inappropriately to return to the door and enter appropriately.
- ▶ How the class reacts to your first directions will be an indication of how they will react to your directions for the remainder of the year.

How to Make Your First Request Effective

- ▶ Put a firm but friendly smile on your face.
- ▶ Look the student in the face and communicate understanding and acknowledgement.
- ▶ Verbally welcome and acknowledge each student.
- ▶ Then lower your voice to a firm but soft tone. Speak slowly and communicate understanding and acknowledgement.

Daily and In the Same Place

- ▶ Your very first priority when class starts is to get the students to work.
- ▶ When class begins, you can easily get students to work if three criteria have been met:
 - ▶ The students have an assignment.
 - ▶ They know where to find the assignment.
 - ▶ They know why they are to do their assignment.

Discipline with a Plan

- ▶ The three most important student behaviors that must be taught the first days of school are these
 - ▶ Discipline
 - ▶ Procedures
 - ▶ Routines
- ▶ The effective teacher invests time in teaching discipline and procedures.

Classroom Management Cardinal Principle

- ▶ Do not stop instruction when giving out the consequence.
- ▶ When you see a violation of one of the rules, immediately give out the penalty.
- ▶ Give out the penalty quietly as you continue to work with the lesson or class work.

Reasonable and Logical Consequences

- ▶ A reasonable consequence is one that follows logically from the behavior rather than one that is arbitrarily imposed.
- ▶ The best logical consequences teach the students to choose between the acceptable and unacceptable actions.

What are you picking on me for?

- ▶ “Because you CHOSE to break the rules.”
- ▶ Do not argue!
- ▶ Do not ask the student if he or she is questioning your authority!
- ▶ Don not yell, scream, or raise your voice!

Getting Parental Support

- ▶ Give the parents a copy of the discipline plan.
- ▶ Communicate and work cooperatively with the students' homes.
- ▶ Always deal with the behavior, not the person.

The number one problem in the classroom is not discipline; it is the lack of procedures and routines.

Discipline vs. Procedures

- ▶ Discipline concerns how students BEHAVE.
- ▶ Procedures concern how things are DONE.
- ▶ Discipline has penalties and rewards.
- ▶ Procedures have no penalties or rewards.

Teaching Classroom Procedures

- ▶ Most behavior problems in the classroom are caused by the teacher's failure to teach students how to follow procedures.
 - ▶ Explain
 - ▶ Rehearse
 - ▶ Reinforce