Research Question: In the United States, grades 4-9, how do you as a teacher motivate students to want to learn and succeed in school?

Motivation is an internal state that pushes us in particular directions whether it is positive or negative. Students who are motivated to want to learn will be engaged in activities and find learning to be exciting. If a student is motivated to learn they will set goals for themselves and be cognitively engaged by thinking about what they are learning.

**Extrinsic** motivation occurs when we are motivated to perform a behavior or engage in an activity in order to earn a reward or avoid a punishment.

Examples:

-Charting successes

-Earning rewards such as stars, a treat, time to play computer games, or more recess time. -Point systems that reward children for improved attention, learning, accuracy, productivity, and behavior have particularly powerful effects on their motivation.

**Intrinsic** motivation involves engaging in a behavior because it is personally rewarding; essentially, performing an activity for its own sake rather than the desire for some external reward.

Examples:

-Positive feedback

-Using students’ interests when teaching a subject

Create activities that capture students’ attention and spark their curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm

Research:

-Parent Involvement (Dotterer)

-School and Class Environment (Anderman and Maehr)

-”Academic Intrinsic motivation concerns enjoyment of school learning characterized by a mastery orientation; curiosity; persistence; task endogeny; and the learning of challenging, difficult, and novel tasks” (Gottfried and Fleming)

-”…positive emotional attachments to peers, teachers, and parents promote not only healthy social, emotional, and intellectual functioning but also positive feelings of self-worth and self-esteem.” (Connell and Welborn)

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

* Need for Competence and Self-worth
* Need for Relatedness
* Need for Affiliation
* Need for Approval
* Need for Achievement

Observation

Extrinsic Motivation

-Goal Green Friday -AR goals/points

-Mystery Person

Intrinsic Motivation

-Motivational Monday -Teacher Praise/Feedback

-Student Interviews

Motivation: the drive to want to accomplish something. "why people decide to do something, how long they are willing to sustain the activity and how hard they are going to pursue it"

1.      **Physiological needs**. We are motivated to satisfy needs that ensure our physical survival. Needs in this group include food, water, air, shelter, clothing and sex. Most people have satisfied their physiological needs allowing them to concentrate on higher level needs. For some though, physiological needs are dominant and are the biggest needs in their lives.

* 2.      **Safety needs**. Once physiological needs are met one can concentrate on bringing safety and security to our lives. Safety and security needs include, order, stability, routine, familiarity, control over one’s life and environment, certainty and health.
* 3.      **Social needs** or love and belonging needs. These needs include love, affection, belonging and acceptance. People look for these needs in relationships with other people and are motivated for these needs by the love from their families.
* 4.      **Esteem needs**. All people have a need for stable, firmly based, usually high evaluation of themselves for self-respect or self-esteem and for the esteem of others. These needs may therefore be classified into two subsidiary sets. These are, first, the desire for strength, achievement, adequacy, mastery of competence, confidence, independence and freedom. Second, we have what we call the desire for reputation or prestige (defining it as respect from other people), status, fame, glory, dominance, importance, recognition, dignity or appreciation.
* 5.      **Need for self-actualization**. This level of hierarchy is concentrated on an individual being able to reach their full potential a human being. Once someone has satisfied the first four levels of needs then they have the ability to concentrate on functioning to their highest potential. But even if all these needs are satisfied, we may often still expect that a new discontent and restlessness will soon develop, unless the individual is doing what they are fitted for. Musicians must play music, artists must paint if they are to be at peace with themselves. What humans can be, they must be. They must be true to their own nature.
* **•** The first four needs are what we call **deficiency needs**, because they come from things we are lacking. These needs can be met only by external sources, by the environment, people or things going on around us.
* •Self-actualization is a **growth need**. This doesn’t just address what we are lacking in our lives, but it gives us room to grow and develop as an individual. This need is always intrinsically motivated, because we do it out of pure enjoyment and desire to grow.

Class Environment

Teachers should create classroom environments that provide students with opportunities to engage in **interesting**, **personally relevant**, **challenging** activities.  Students bring a variety of experiences and interests to the classroom, and learning becomes personally meaningful when students' **prior knowledge** and diverse experiences are connected with their present learning experiences.

Positive classroom environment by stating that teachers needed to try to relate to their students, be someone they could confide in, make students feel comfortable asking questions, and avoid labeling students.

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