

If I were given the opportunity to make a decision on the many details of a school including the name and specific grade I would want to teach I would think long and hard before making my decision. For starters, I would choose to teach 2nd grade and I would name my school after a very important person, Barbara A. Fiene. I chose Barbara A. Fiene for the name of the elementary school because she was very well known in the community and has helped out at the middle and high school for many years. I feel as though this would be a wonderful attribution to her family. I would like to teach 2nd grade because the students are starting to become independent in different ways but they still need an adult to guide them in the right direction and assist them with school and/or personal issues.

In my classroom I would have one wall of windows and the rest would be walls covered in posters and projects the students have made. I would like to keep my classroom between 65-70 degrees. I would like to be able to manually adjust the temperature depending on the weather. I understand some students are naturally cold all of the time, therefore, I would allow them to bring an extra sweatshirt to keep at school so they don't have to worry about being cold. However, there are some students that are always warm; this is why I would like to control my temperature so I can accommodate all of my student's wishes. Since I would be having a lot of natural light, I would like to keep my lights on a low setting, but bright enough to still see and not make the students sleepy. I will make sure my classroom is wheelchair accessible in the case that I ever have a student with that need. Their desks will start the year in rows and throughout the year I will rearrange and use many different set ups. I would not place any one's desk near the windows because on a nice day or even a snowy day they might end up looking out the window more than they are paying attention.

In my classroom I will be teaching respect right away at the beginning of the year. I feel that students need to not only respect their elders but also their peers and themselves. I was raised to have great respect for other people and I want my students to show that same quality that I have. I am not going to be a mean teacher, but I will be straight forward and make sure my students are being respectful, honest and fair to others, no matter whether that other person is younger, older or the same age. I want my classroom to be free spirited, warming and comfortable for everyone. I will be welcoming of all types of students and let them know that I am here to help them and they can talk to me about anything whenever they need.

The morning will begin at 8:15AM. Students will begin to arrive anytime between 8-8:15. When they arrive in the morning they will have a closet space in the classroom to hang their personal belongings. Students will empty out their back pack with notes, lunch money, homework or anything else that needed to be brought back to school that day. Then they will go to the calendar area and move their name into either the hot or cold lunch section, so I have a count to give the cooks for that day. After those things are done students will go to their desks and read silently until the morning announcements are read on the speaker. After announcements we will have our morning meeting, during this time we will look at the weather outside, change the date on our calendar and review counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. (I have attached a tentative daily schedule for my classroom) When transitioning between activities I will use the phrase "Ready, Set, Go" and the students will then clean up and get ready for the next subject. I will teach them at the beginning of the year specific hand symbols, for example I will hold up my hand and say "give me 5". This means students will, stop talking, sit down, eyes on me, feet on the floor and have their things ready to move on. I will also use a musical instrument to get their attention if they are being noisy.

At the beginning of the year as a class we will make classroom rules. I want to include my students in this because if I make the rules they might not abide by them fully, so if they make them I can say “well you made the rule, why are you breaking it” if that is the case. I think allowing students to be a part of something so important is a good idea because it makes them feel important and like they matter, which they should! We will make a poster of the rules we come up with and hang it in the classroom in a spot where it can be seen clearly. I may even make multiple copies to hang in different parts of the room. After the rules have been made I will then decide on consequences for the misbehavior. I think I will use a type of object with the students’ names on them and have them move their object from the best behavior category to a lower one each time they break a rule or misbehave. The first consequence will be a verbal warning, next I will make the child walk the perimeter of the cement or blacktop outside at recess and lastly the student will be sent to the principal and will call home to their parents and explain why they got in trouble that day. I am not going to be the kind of teacher who holds a bad behavior on a student, each day will be a new day and the students will start over on the behavior chart. They need to know that we can’t live in the past; we have to move on and have a good day! I will also have an incentive to positive behavior. I will use “caught being good” cards, these will look like a card in a deck of cards and once the student has obtained enough cards they will be able to choose a prize from my prize box. I think this will encourage students to be positive influencers and not follow in the footsteps of students who are misbehaving. I understand that not every colleague of mine will discipline the same way that I will but it would be nice if we were all fair and not letting students get away with misbehaving to an extreme.

I will also make sure my room is friendly and comfortable for students with a disability. I understand some students need more space to work on things and some need it quiet. I hope to

have an extra room connected to my main classroom for these purposes. In this room I would like to have a treadmill for students to use when they need to cool down. I would also have a table to work with students individually. It is my goal for students to feel safe and always welcome in my classroom. From some of the videos we have watched about medications and medicating your child/student I feel that it is ultimately the parent's decision and the child's teacher(s) need to respect that and teach the child how they are going to learn best. I have also learned that there are many related services that can be put into place when you have a student with a disability in your classroom. These services can help you student learn better and they provide safe and quality instruction.