

The Hidden Curriculum

by Brenda Smith Myles

Sometimes teachers think that all kids know the rules even when they have not been told them. Then when someone, like you or one of your friends, breaks one of those rules you get in trouble. That seems so unfair! The rules that teachers think you know without being taught are called the "hidden curriculum. Here are some "hidden curriculum" rules that teachers might think YOU know. I hope these help you out in school!

- Do not talk to other kids in the classroom when the teacher is giving a lesson.
- When the teacher is scolding another student, it is not the right time to ask the teacher a question.
- If one small thing occurs and a teacher corrects you, it does not mean that your entire day is bad.
- During a fire drill go with your class to the nearest exit. This is not the time to go to the bathroom or to ask to go to the bathroom.
- You should talk to teachers in a nice tone of voice because they will talk to you in a more positive manner. Teachers also like it if you smile every once in a while.
- When your teacher gives you a warning about behavior and you continue the behavior, you are probably going to get in trouble. If you stop the behavior immediately after the first warning, you will probably not get in trouble.
- If one of your classmates tells you to do something you think might get you in trouble, you should always stop and think before acting.
- Friends do not ask other friends to do things that will get them in trouble. Doing it will not make them think you are cool. Instead, they may think you are gullible and laugh behind your back. Tell them to do it themselves and see what they do.
- Not all teachers have the same rules for their class. Some teachers do not allow any talking unless you raise your hand. Others may allow talking if you are not disruptive and annoying other students. It is important to know the rules different teachers have for their class. The rules will always change from teacher to teacher and it will not do any good to focus on the fact that it is not fair.
- When a teacher tells another student to stop talking, it is not a good idea to start talking to your neighbor since the teacher has already expressed disapproval of that action.
- When hearing someone speak using incorrect grammar, do not correct him every time, especially in a critical manner. The person you correct will think it is rude will be viewed as curt and as if you are trying to point out his faults.
- When you see someone in the hall at school that you are attracted to, find a way to let them know without going directly up to them and saying loudly, "YOU'RE CUTE!!!" That will make the recipient of the comment uncomfortable.

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