

PREFACE

WHEN *Conscious Classroom Management* came out twelve years ago, it created quite a stir in the education community. Michael Kelley, book exhibitor at the National Symposium on Teacher Induction in San Jose, California, said, “Not only did *Conscious Classroom Management* outsell any other book at the conference, but also there was a ‘Harry Potter-like’ frenzy, with people lined up three and four deep to purchase copies before they were all gone.”

Chuck Korkegian, book exhibitor at the National Dropout Prevention Conference said, “[it] outsold any book I’ve ever sold in all my years’ working exhibits. Teachers were lined up at my booth to get their hands on it.”

What made *Conscious Classroom Management* so in demand is its mixture of easy-to-use, practical strategies and simple, yet compelling, positive approaches and assumptions. For more than ten years, this combination has helped classrooms and schools become affirming environments where referrals and suspensions are down and student engagement and teacher satisfaction are up. Repeatedly, the feedback we have received is that *Conscious Classroom Management* is practical, easy to use, and makes an immediate difference.

Why, then, write a second edition?

While *Conscious Classroom Management* is still just as relevant and powerful today as it was twelve years ago, a lot has happened in education since then. Technological advances have brought tablets and smart phones into the classrooms. Brain research has blossomed and deeply informed teaching practice. Schools have grown increasingly diverse; now, for example, the California Department of Education reports twice as many Latino students as Caucasian students in California public schools.¹ This reality heightens the need for teachers to be more culturally proficient as they create inclusive and safe spaces for all students to learn. In addition, with various new statewide standards, curricula must likewise reflect an increased focus on student-centered learning and independent inquiry.

These shifts have led to a rapid change in whom we teach, what we teach, how we teach it, and how students learn. Teacher and student



A Closer Look

Effective classroom management is the essential glue that allows teaching and learning to happen.

comfort zones are challenged, often resulting in behavior issues and conflicts in the classroom. In other words, there is an even greater need today for a focus on classroom management to help teachers find their “sea legs” and adjust to the new challenges in their classrooms.

Conscious Classroom Management II addresses these challenges, offering practical and kind approaches and strategies. The focus is not simply about getting students quiet; it’s about empowering them to become agents of their own learning and for each to find his own internal locus of motivation. In addition, *Conscious Classroom Management II* is designed to help teachers learn new ways to support, engage, and motivate all their students with dignity and kindness, thereby keeping students in the classroom, engaged, contributing, and learning.

While classroom management is rarely at the top of lists about education reform, it remains the essential glue that allows teaching and learning to happen, increasing growth and wonder for both student and teacher.

If you’ve read the first edition of *Conscious Classroom Management*, you’ll see that much of it remains in the second edition. However, you’ll also find brand new, additional material that solidifies and extends the strategies from the first edition, thus addressing the changes in education outlined above. Woven throughout this book is an even deeper and more abiding focus on teacher wellness, positive connection with students, de-escalation of conflict, and student-centered learning.

New Chapters

We’ve added three innovative chapters. The first is called “**Strategies for School Administrators and Teacher Leaders**,” and is designed to help education leaders support their teachers and students. The second is called “**The First Week of School**,” and offers detailed road maps for teachers to thrive in their first week. The third new chapter is called “**Making Changes**.” It provides practical, step-by-step approaches for implementing new policies and procedures in the classroom, thus minimizing the stress involved and maximizing the likelihood of real and lasting positive change.

Online Toolbox — A Treasure of User-Friendly Support for New Teachers

Each copy of the book comes with a unique password that allows you online access to a wealth of supporting material, including lesson plans, samples, checklists, and videos.

In particular, the online component of the new chapter “The First Week of School” includes a large cache of teacher-created lesson plans — organized as a clickable calendar — to help teachers help their students in the first five days of the school year.

This book is designed to help teachers excel in managing their classes, motivating and empowering their students, and bringing wonder into the classroom. It’s for beginning teachers, veteran teachers, struggling teachers, and successful teachers, who want to take their craft to the next level. It’s also for administrators, professors, mentors, and staff developers who want to help their teachers get there.

Research-based, aligned with best teaching practices, and exceedingly practical, the strategies and approaches in *Conscious Classroom Management II* will work for any and all teachers pre-K through 12. *Conscious Classroom Management II* can work on its own as the central resource for classroom management at your school or district. Or it can be used to support and enhance any classroom management program that’s already in place. It shines a light on key underlying principles of management, and provides specific and easy-to-use road maps for teachers to follow.

We invite you to dive into the second edition of *Conscious Classroom Management*. You’ll find all the practical strategies that made the first book a must-have resource, plus much more to support you to survive and thrive in today’s classroom, all the while empowering your students to be their best. In this new edition, the keys to unlocking the secrets of great teaching are placed even more firmly in your hands.