I wanted to highlight an incredibly special teacher, Miss Amanda Kennedy at Veterans Elementary School... At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, I was very eager to meet with Jackie’s new teacher, Miss Kennedy... Not only has Jackie performed better overall, but she has truly been inspired by Miss Kennedy. Jackie did a fantastic job with her Science Fair project, and earned the opportunity to compete at the District level STEM Fair where she earned a 2nd place medal. She is so proud of herself! In addition to that, Jackie has completed ALL of the Sunshine State Reader books for her age group (and the accompanying AR Tests!) Jackie is truly a better student because of Miss Kennedy.

- Rebecca Maher

Rays Spirit Day
The Tampa Bay Rays and Pasco Education Foundation have put together a fantastic ticket offer for Pasco County students, employees, and their friends and families for the Seattle Mariners vs. Tampa Bay Rays game on Sunday, June 8, at 1:40 p.m. Lower Level tickets will be offered for $18. The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, May 28. To place an order, go to http://www.pascoeducationfoundation.org/ and click on the Rays icon.

Moodle to Canvas Transition
Anyone who logs in to a Moodle course will see the following notice at the top of the page:

IMPORTANT - Moodle Will Be Shut Down on 8/15/14

On August 15, 2014, Moodle/LEARN will be shut down and discontinued. Moodle is being replaced by Canvas, which has more capabilities and will better serve the needs of our students and teachers. Teachers can export their Moodle courses and import them into Canvas. All Moodle/LEARN users should make sure they have everything important exported or saved out of Moodle before 8/15/14. Here is the link to the web page explaining everything and linking to directions: http://connectplus.pasco.k12.fl.us/do/tistechtips/?p=1721

2014-2015 Work Calendars
The 2014-2015 calendars are posted on the District’s homepage. Under Quick Links, click on the calendar link to be taken to the school year calendar and downloads for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 calendars. The calendars display holidays and other dates of District-wide importance. To access additional work calendars, click on the indicated hyperlink.

May is Women’s Health Month
Celebrate with Medical Center of Trinity by joining their “Screened and Fabulous Party” on Tuesday, May 20, beginning at 3 p.m. This time has been set aside for Pasco County School Board employees to get a screening mammogram. Click here to learn more.

May 18 – 24 is National Education Bosses’ Week
Design Question 8 – Establishing and Maintaining Effective Relationships with Students

**Desired Effect:** Students feel part of the classroom community.

**Design Question 8 Overview**

Design Question 8 addresses teacher-student relationships. The quality of the relationships teachers have with students is foundational to effective management and ultimately effective teaching and learning. There are two primary dynamics that constitute effective relationships:

1. the extent to which the teacher gives students the sense that he/she is providing guidance and control both academically and behaviorally; and
2. the extent to which the teacher provides a sense that everyone in the classroom are a team devoted to the well being of all participants. In this aspect, the teacher establishes an atmosphere in which the classroom is a true community of learning.

**Elements of DQ 8**

**Element 36 – Understanding Students’ Interest and Background**

**Desired Effect:** Students have a sense of acceptance and community in the classroom.

- Examples: Student background surveys, opinion questionnaires, individual teacher-student conferences

**Element 37 – Using Verbal & Nonverbal Behaviors that Indicate Affection for Students**

**Desired Effect:** Students respond to the teacher’s verbal and nonverbal interactions and can describe the teacher as someone who cares for them.

- Examples: Greet students at the classroom door, give students leadership roles in the classroom

**Element 38 – Displaying Objectivity & Control**

**Desired Effect:** Students are settled by the teacher’s objective behavior and controlled manner.

- Examples: Use active listening and speaking strategies, project a neutral facial expression, speak in a calm voice

“We all want to feel cared for and valued by the significant people in our world. Students are no different.”

— Mark Boynton
### Evidence of Design Question 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element 36</th>
<th>Element 37</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Students’ Interests and Background</td>
<td>Using Verbal and Nonverbal Behaviors that Indicate Affection for Students</td>
<td>Displaying Objectivity and Control</td>
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**Focus:** The teacher uses students’ interests and backgrounds to produce a climate of acceptance and community.

**The teacher:**
- has side discussions with students about events in their lives
- has discussions with students about topics in which they are interested
- builds student interests into lessons

**Students:**
- when asked, can describe the teacher as someone who knows them and whom they feel accepts them

**Focus:** When appropriate, the teacher uses verbal and nonverbal behavior that indicates caring for students.

**The teacher:**
- compliments students regarding academic and personal accomplishments
- engages in informal conversations with students that are not related to academics
- smiles, nods, high-fives, etc… at students when appropriate

**Students:**
- when asked, can describe the teacher as someone who cares for them

**Focus:** The teacher behaves in an objective and controlled manner.

**The teacher:**
- addresses issues and events in a calm and controlled manner
- interacts with all students in a calm and controlled fashion
- does not demonstrate personal offense at student misbehavior

**Students:**
- are settled by the teacher’s calm demeanor
- when asked, describe the teacher as in control of himself/herself
- state that the teacher does not hold grudges

## Strategies for Design Question 8 Elements

### Student Interest Survey
**Element 36**

The teacher uses background surveys at the beginning of the year or beginning of a unit to learn about each student’s background, interests, and goals. Some questions could include:

- What would you do if you knew you wouldn’t fail?
- Do you take any extra-curricular classes?
- How would you describe yourself?

### Scheduled Interaction
**Element 37**

The teacher creates a schedule that ensures regular interaction with each student by selecting a few students each day to seek out and talk to. The teacher might interact with students in the lunchroom, during breaks between classes, or right after school.

### Self-Reflection
**Element 38**

The teacher self-reflects daily about consistency when enforcing positive and negative consequences associated with the established rules and procedures. The teacher should also consider how to progressively increase expectations for students to control their own behavior.

Click the Canvas.Pasco button to access more examples.