

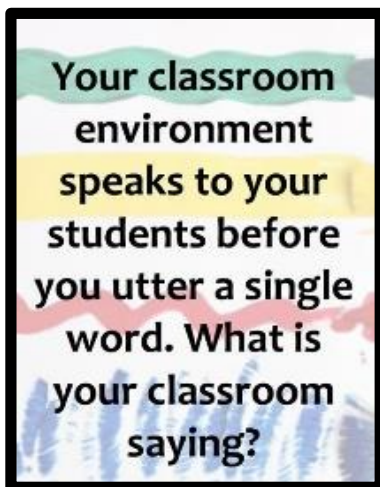


A Mindful Evaluation of the Learning Environment

As teachers we rarely feel like all our “ducks are in a row,” however it’s important to be mindful of our work and learning spaces to ensure they provide an optimal environment for scholar well-being and achievement. This week’s challenge is to evaluate those spaces and look for opportunities to create more welcoming, engaging environments.

Here are some reflection questions we can ask ourselves:

- 🦆 Does my learning environment calm or assault the senses (smell, sight, hearing)?
- 🦆 Is my classroom/office cluttered and disorganized, or are things streamlined and intentional?
- 🦆 Does the learning environment enrich scholars’ learning or distract and disengage?
- 🦆 When scholars enter my classroom/office, would they say I take pride in my profession?
- 🦆 Does my classroom/office provide equitable learning for all scholars?
- 🦆 Is my classroom/office space inclusive and representative of our school community?
- 🦆 Does my space communicate that I have high expectations for myself and my scholars?



Take a tour: Visit other classrooms/offices on campus for inspiration. I'd recommend Ms. Karvis' 4th grade, Mr. Diego's Social Studies, and Mr. Cesar's and Ms. Laura's offices as wonderful places to start. Avoid the chicken coop. 😊

Walk in their Shoes: Sit in scholars' seats or explore things at their level (for little ones) to ensure everyone can easily see and reach materials.

Start Small: Even 5 minutes a day of decluttering or organizing can make a huge difference.

