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Education Field Experience EDUC 230-02

Spring 2012

Rationale Statement

**Statement of Standard Number Six: Learning Environment** “Teachers shall understand individual and group motivation and behavior and shall create a supportive, safe and respectful learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning and self-motivation.” (NJPTSB, 2004, pg 14)

**Name of Artifact:** Classroom Rules and Diagram

**Date of Artifact:** Spring 2012

**Course:** Education Field Experience EDUC 230-02

**Rationale Statement:**

This rationale encompasses two artifacts I created. The first is a set of rules and procedures for in my classroom. The other is a floor plan of my ideal classroom’s layout. Both of these artifacts have strong connections to this standard. The focus of standard six, Learning Environment, is creating a supportive and helpful environment for students to learn in. To this end the structure and climate of the daily class is essential. This set of rules and procedures for the class are what make it a good environment. The rules, along with their rewards and consequences, make the classroom safe and this feeling of safety is a large part of having a good learning environment. Likewise the repetitive structure for the daily lessons and assignments ensure the stability of this environment. Another part of this environment is the physical setup of the room. This is meant to ensure that students are comfortable in the room and can focus on the lesson with as few distractions as possible.

Clearly, the first step in having a successful lesson in a good environment. While I thought it would be simple to create a few rules for students to follow I realized there were far too many things I wanted to put in the list. So I compromised by putting a few down and reminded the students of the school’s rules. I will probably do this in my future classes as well since I think this will make sure that not only will the basics behavioral rules be in place but the students can realize that there are multiple layers of rules that we must live within everyday. I had also thought the floor plan would be easier than it was. I have seen so many types of classroom whether in real life on in the media. Each has its own weaknesses and strengths. So combining thins I have seen was difficult as I picked and chose what I liked and what I did not. I know that in the future I will not have total control of my class’s layout, but I will be able to make small changes. I can see how these small changes can completely change the atmosphere of the room. Just moving a desk can create more room for presentations or block access to part of the room. There has to be balance between what we want and what we can actually have. That is one of the most important lessons anyone can learn in life.