

"If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves." Carl Jung

1. Love them first.
2. Increase proximity to the students- rove close to their seats- get in their personal spaces and direct questions to them from as close as 2 feet—other kids will step up their attention level. You don't just have to call on problem children for this to be effective.
3. Do not stay behind a desk or sit during class time. The desk creates a physical barrier and the students assume you cannot see them. If you are using your computer, try to be at the side instead of behind the desk. That way if a student has a question, you can walk over to the student and see the board from his point of view. This connects you to the student and the class.
4. In discussions, bring a rock or stuffed animal, Pythagoras's original parchment....they can only speak if they are physically holding it- one person at a time.
5. Do not ever try to speak above them or scream at them. ( I won't say I never have, but save it for a truly momentous occasion that they will never forget.) If you become a screamer, they will take pleasure in pushing you to that point every day. Wait until they get quiet and then talk.
6. Change the seating frequently. Assign seats. Have the computer "randomly" select their seat or group.
7. Work on the "die in the fire" look. (This phrase was invented by my daughter)
8. Keep a sense of urgency in the classroom. Give them time limits for activities and keep reminding them of how much time is left.
9. Ask students to "show you their intelligence" or to impress you rather than use negative comments that drain energy and momentum.
10. Approach the classroom with high expectations and professionalism and do not be afraid to express sincere, heartfelt disappointment when they fail you.
11. Remember that part of what they do—they do for you. Foster those relationships without choosing favorites.
12. Do not allow students to belittle others. (Does the basketball team laugh if a player misses a foul shot?)
13. Seek to instill a sense of responsibility within the classroom—team effort and helping others.
14. Reward student success- points, recognition, non-verbal acknowledgement, thank you notes, brag on kids in front of their parents, don't lie. But be careful about giving participation grades. These tend to reward the extroverts and punish the introvert who has done all of the work too.
15. Give the students an overview of the day's expectations—write assignments on the board—keep testing dates on the board.
16. Troubled kid- find something they did right and make a big deal of it and then try to wean them off the constant praise.
17. Have some pity for the mess they get into and ask them what they plan to do about it. (Cline and Fay)

18. Compete- but not to extremes
19. Talk to other teachers about student progress and encourage students to do their best in all classes (Coach Sorrells and I used to gang up on the poor little football players and just wear them out with what we expected in terms of energy and effort—the kids knew we were keeping up with them. Some of them didn't like it, but it was on their behalf, so down deep they appreciated the attention.)
20. Ask students for input, request their evaluation of instruction (can be tough), and show them that their intelligent opinions are valued.
21. Remember what adolescence was really like. Think back. You can do it.
22. Students must believe you are on their side and that student progress and success is your first priority.
23. Give them your extra time to show you love them (remind them that you are giving them the most valuable gift you have).
24. Provide them with a choice—do this or do this...get on task with this assignment at your seat or move next to my desk and do the assignment- which do you prefer... (Cline and Fay.)
25. Don't accuse them "what is happening with you?"—let them finish the phrase.
26. Notice something about each student once a week and comment—just trivial...I notice you wear Duke's sportswear—do you like Duke basketball? You lack fizz today—feeling okay? How is your mom doing? Cute notebook. How is your week? Are you having a good beginning of high school? (Cline and Fay)
27. Positive reinforcement- I like the way most of you are in your seats with your materials by the tardy bell!
28. Pray.
29. Follow through. If you say, "I'll give you one more warning," that's all they get, one. If you don't follow through, they don't know where the line is, so they'll keep pressing until they find it. If the line is never the same, well, you can imagine what they'll do.
30. Be consistent every day.
31. Be consistent every day.

The majority of these came from Kathy May.