

# Clean Sweep

This foundational lesson in the Respect unit focuses on self-discipline and how responsible actions affect ourselves first and foremost. As the placement of this unit is after the winter break, many routines need to be reestablished, especially around organization. This lesson focuses on self-discipline related to each student's desk. Note: You will need to have one desk as a sample of messy. You can use your desk if desired. Make sure it is **OBVIOUSLY** messy. You will also need a picture of a student desk that is organized.

## Kindness Concept(s)

Responsibility, Self-discipline,  
Kindness

## Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

## Required Materials

- Copies of the Organized desk picture (will vary by classroom-taken by teacher)
- Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!* by Kelly DiPuchio

## Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM  
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**  
See last page for details.

## Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Explain the difference between responsible and irresponsible actions.
- Practice activities in the classroom that require responsibility to one's self.

## Teacher Connection/Self-Care

As a teacher you are responsible for the safety and education of dozens of children. How do you prepare for school each day? Every teacher is required to provide some type of lesson plans as proof of planning. Effective planning goes much further than this. Mapping out a unit based on the number of in-class days coupled with allotted time constraints can completely change the original lesson. Oftentimes our planning gets shorter and shorter the longer we have been teaching. However, each year we receive a completely new set of students. This week, set aside some extra time to evaluate your current class. What special needs do they have (both strengths and weaknesses) that require a different approach than past years? If this is your first year teaching, try categorizing your students by learning style rather than academic level. You may begin to appreciate each student a bit more, which ultimately leads to a teacher that responds with kindness rather than frustration during this trying time of the year!

### Tips for Diverse Learners

- Create a diagram of the ideal clean desk to help students organize their own desks.
- Draw a simple picture next to common words used in the illustrations: pencils, crayons, binder, etc.
- Allow students to dictate the important parts of their picture to you as needed.



## Share

5-7 minutes

Play 2 Truths and a Dreamwish.

Explain how to play: The teacher says three things about themselves. Two of them are true and one they WISH was true.

The class must vote on which statement is the wish.

Repeat 2 more times with different statements. Here is an example:

- I visited Hawaii.
- I rode a unicycle.
- I went hunting for dinosaur bones. (wish!)

After playing reflect on the game:

- How did it feel to learn about some of my wishes in life?
- Did you like the game? Why or why not?
- Were there any signs I gave to tell when I was wishing?
- Why is it important to tell others when something is a wish and not a fact?



## Inspire

### What is Responsibility?

10-12 minutes

Explain that responsibility is when you are reliable to do the things that are expected or required of you. This means people can count on you! You do what you say and you say what you do. Let's practice responsibility by working together to finish these sentences:

When I mess it up, I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean it up).

When I open it, I \_\_\_\_\_ (close it).

When I break something, I \_\_\_\_\_ (fix it, tell grown up).

When I find something, I \_\_\_\_\_ (turn it in).

**What is Self-Discipline?** Explain that self-discipline means we are responsible for our own behavior. We pay attention to how we act and how we treat both ourselves and others. We can and should control our emotions. For example, when you get really frustrated, can you control yourself by taking deep breaths or walking away? If so, you are practicing self-discipline! Self-discipline takes lots of practice, so don't be discouraged if you need to keep trying! Even adults must practice this skill every day.

**Read Aloud: *Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!* By Kelly DiPuchio**

10 minutes

Read Aloud Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqiYJAp7z4>

This story is about an exceptionally messy teacher and her messy classroom. She isn't very invested in cleaning her classroom until she is finally convinced to tidy up just before retirement. The students themselves are the ones who wind up helping her!

- Why do you think Mrs. McBroom asks the students for ideas on how to clean up her room?
- Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the mess you have created?



## Empower

20 minutes

Students will practice self-discipline and responsibility by exploring a messy versus clean desk.

Explain that we practice self-discipline and responsibility every single day in class. We are each responsible for our own desk space. Today we are going to create a sample of what our clean, tidy desks should look like. When we practice self-discipline and responsibility, our areas reflect that. As your teacher, I must also practice these skills. Let's take a look at my messy desk and talk about what I could do to tidy it.

- Explain: This desk is so messy because I chose to not be responsible with my belongings. I was not practicing self discipline. Today we will take time to practice self-discipline and responsibility by organizing our desks.
- Provide each student with a copy of the organized desk. You may also want to project the picture using the whiteboard.
- As a class discuss the important components of the clean desk:
  - All loose papers are in the proper folders
  - All notebooks and folders are stacked on the left
  - The pencil box goes on the right
  - There is no trash!
- Allow everyone 15-20 minutes to clean up their desks and organize them using the picture. Walk around and help students that require organizational assistance.
- Explain that at the end of each day after all the students go home, you will start doing desk checks. The student with the neatest desk will receive the "Responsibility Reward" box with several small items to play with after they finish their work the next day. (Items to include could be a stress ball, clay, etc.)
- After everyone is done, go around the room and highlight at least one way each student was able to organize their desks.



## Reflect

3-5 minutes

*Self-Discipline takes practice. We have that opportunity daily with our desks. Let's work together to keep our classroom clean and organized. The more we practice, the better we will become!*



## Extension Ideas

- Laminate each clean desk picture and tape it to the side of each desk for easy reference.
- Practice self-discipline and responsibility weekly by cleaning up your desk at the end of each Friday if possible.
- Send home a note with parents and have them repeat this activity with the student's bedroom.



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AND EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>