

The Glass Is Half Full: Confessing the positive to our students

A Christian teacher is positive, optimistic, faith filled and nurturing. Evidence of this winning attitude and redeemed heart can be found in their professional language. Unlike the language of the world which is critical, negative, condemning and attacking the student, God's professionals know the power of orienting the student towards the good and the positive with their words. Our students need a steady diet of praise and encouragement to counter all the negative things the world thrusts at them. Scripture says, "encourage one another daily...so that none of you may be hardened." Heb 3:13

Rather than saying this:	I choose to say:
You got 10 out of the 20 sums wrong	You passed, and I know you will do better next time
Don't chew gum in my class!	We have an agreed code for working together, and we know you are going to choose right now what is required with that chewing gum.
Settle down and stop fidgeting, now!	Let's see how long you can sit still and concentrate for.
You forgot your diary again didn't you?	We both know its more efficient for you to bring your diary, let's see you bring it to next class
You never do your homework well.	Do you have family commitments that prevent you from doing your homework properly?
That work is so messy	I know you can do really neat work when you try.
Don't be sarcastic	Kind words are like apples of gold in a basket of silver.
Stop distracting them	Get down to your own work for now and you can help them later.
You should know all your tables by now, what's wrong with you?	By knowing your tables you can be a walking calculator.
Why do you always want to go to the toilet in my class?	Do you really need to go to the toilet every time in my class? Can we discuss the reason?
How many times do I have to tell you to work quietly?	Quiet diligent work habits make a genius.
Do not take what is not yours without asking first-that's stealing!	Someone is probably very upset that they have misplaced that item. Do you think you can help trace the owner?
Don't you dare let me hear you using bad language again.	Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O Lord.
You are so lazy, make an effort with this now!	Seems like the job's too big? How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

Keep your hands to yourself. Don't push and shove all the time.	The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness, kindness and self-control.
You are so slow, hurry up and finish this writing piece.	Ask God for creative ideas and go with the flow.
Don't answer back! Just do it!	Let's have a talk about this.
Look at the way you are dressed. It's a disgrace. Tuck in your shirt and do up your tie at once	With a few minor adjustments you can become the best dressed student in the school.

