**APS 8**

**Maintaining an Environment That Promotes Learning**

In this context, the term *environment* refers to both the physical surroundings and the affective climate of the classroom. This standard focuses on environmental factors that a teacher can reasonably be expected to control.

An effective teacher creates and maintains a classroom environment that encourages and supports student learning.

* What is very important as a teacher is to maintain the classroom itself! The room must be warm, inviting, and a fun learning environment for students. The room should be able to provide students will all the learning tools they may need to aid them in academic success. The teacher is expected to keep her classroom in order and to allow it to be accessible and fun for students. The physical surroundings for a student can be very crucial to how they learn and perceive certain materials.

Samantha Galvin

DOA #4

2/6/12

When I first walked into Ms. Lumpkin’s classroom my eyes were everywhere at once. It was not a distracting or an unorganized set up but attention grabbing and simply fascinating. Her room was a rectangular shape with windows on the far end. Her students’ desks were set up in rows like a behaviorist classroom. I had asked her if she found rows to be affective for her teaching and she said yes, she mentioned that groups and pairing desks are ok for group projects but rows for the most part help her keep organized and it was appropriate for the subject matter she is teaching which is history. She has white boards in the front of her classroom and a smart board which she rarely uses. What made her room so interesting was her choice of décor. Her walls were covered in posters of different places and countries and it made the room engrossing and engaging as a history student. Julie also had her student’s work displayed on the walls to encourage her students to keep working hard. Kronowitz explains in his article of how colors and decorated walls are encouraging and engaging to students and I believe that Ms. Lumpkin does a wonderful job of this. Kronowitz explains how a classroom can send powerful non-verbal message to the students and I believe by putting history related posters around her classroom, Julie conveys that method.

I think that Julie’s method behind her classroom organization would definitely work for me. I think as a history teacher desks in rows helps keep order and attention. I really love the way Julie displays different history and places on the walls; it is interesting to look at and to learn about. The first day and even now I still cannot stop looking at the walls, while that may be a bit distracting I think that it is teaching me something in a non-verbal way and it opens your mind rather than being shut down by bare walls. Julie conducts her classroom the way she displays it. She is energetic and rounded, just like her classroom.

* Rationale:

For ADEPT Standard 8 I chose DOA #4. This DOA describes my experience in Ms. Lumpkin’s class during my practicum at Dreher. This DOA asked us to explain the physical environment of the classroom and I loved Ms. Lumpkin’s set up. It was so interesting, as a history major and future teacher I loved that her walls were covered in posters of different places. I think that the way one organizes her/his classroom is very important in aiding children’s learning. The classroom should be a place you can step into and be comfortable and ready to learn! This DOA is a good example of a place that promotes learning!