

Hand and Verbal Signals for Student Management

1. VERBAL CLASS SIGNALS

- a) 'Give Me Five' – Count down all five fingers – Put hand in air and count beginning with: (students respond with words after teacher says #)

- 1 - Eyes on speaker
- 2 - Mouths quiet
- 3 - Being still
- 4 - Hands free
- 5 – Listening

Can also be used nonverbally just putting open hand in the air with all five fingers out. Teachers teach the procedure that as fingers go down, 5, 4,3,2,1, all are to be quiet by '1'.

- b) "Give me a Thumbs Up if...." – Use this as a non-verbal cue for agreement or a readiness signal.
- c) To gain students focus back on teacher:

Speak this sentence quietly. “..If you can hear me, clap once.”
“ If you can hear me, clap twice.”
“ If you can hear me clap three times a charm!”

You can vary this by changing the directions for the students to follow such as “ If you can hear me, touch your nose.” or some other action.

2. CALLBACKS

- a) Use a simple phrase or quote, the teacher begins saying the first part and the students finish it.

Simple phrases:

Teacher: “Ready Set”	Students: “You Bet!”
Teacher: “Building Success“	Students: “Believe, Achieve, Success!”
Teacher: R-E-S-P-E-C-T	Students: Show respect for you and me.”

- b) Use quotes. (May use quote of week or other pertinent saying) For Example:

Teacher: If we were supposed to talk more than listen...
Students: We would have two mouths and one ear.

Teacher: No bees, no honey,
Students: No work, no money!

3. CLASSROOM NONVERBAL SIGNALS: Students simply raise their hand with desired fingers and teacher may respond with a nod of the head to give permission. This is very effective if adopted school-wide including P.E., Music, etc.

<u>Example:</u>	<u>Signal:</u>	<u>Your School's Assigned Meaning</u>
Private conversation -	1 Finger	_____
Sharpen pencil -	2 Fingers	_____
Restroom/drink	3 Fingers	_____
Library	Make 'L' with fingers	_____
_____	4 fingers	_____

4. LARGE GROUP SIGNALS:

a) Clap rhythm:

7 Claps/ 7 Claps/ 3 Claps/ 3 Claps/ "Whoop, Whoop, say school mascot's name!"

b) Teacher begins by putting a hand in the air. Students learn that when this happens they are to put their hand in the air and stop talking. This is particularly effective with a large group or when in a sizeable or outdoor area.