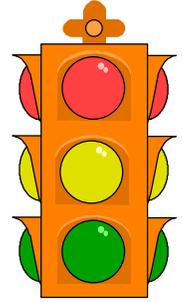


Stoplight Behavior Management System

The bulletin board at the front of my room shows a modified stoplight with four colors: green, yellow, orange, and red. Numbered pockets surround the stoplight. Each student has a number, and each person's pocket contains a strip of colored paper. Everyone begins each day with "green for go" showing. If a class rule is broken, a yellow slip is placed in the pocket. This the first caution. If another behavior problem occurs that day, the color will change to orange, the second caution. Furthermore, the student will have to complete a Time Out Record explaining their inappropriate behavior and how they plan to correct the problem. These Time Out forms are sent home to parents to be signed and returned. The color red is reserved for very severe discipline problems. Such behavior results in a phone call home or a trip to the office. At the end of each day, everyone goes back to green.



The stoplight system is most effective when it is also used to reward students who behave appropriately. On Friday, I give each student who stayed

green all week a Bonus Ticket. Our class has an auction two times during the year (Christmas and last day of school). Students collect Bonus Tickets to spend at these auctions. Bonus Tickets are also given to students who have completed all homework assignments in a given week. Students may only earn Bonus Tickets for weeks in which they have perfect attendance.

This system may seem confusing, but it is actually quite simple. Best of all, it allows me to devote more time to teaching and less time to handling discipline problems.

