

### **Acknowledging Students for Good Behaviors**

- Try to use a 4 to 1 ratio of positive to corrective comments in the classroom
- Be specific : “Thank you for being respectful and handing me your ID when I asked for it”
- Recognize students immediately after a good behavior
- Be genuine: Convey sincerity with tone of voice and body language, message, and choice of behavior to acknowledge (avoid patronizing students)
- Use vicarious reinforcement: acknowledge a student who is meeting your expectation when others are not: “I really appreciate how productive group one is being right now, you all have your books open and are taking notes”
- Make the activity relevant: If the content of an academic activity is meaningful and interesting for students, it is rewarding for them to behave well and participate. For example, for math class, allowing them to complete word problems to figure out how to save money for a video game system (Xbox, Playstation, etc.)

**Pop quiz:** What do you have available to you that would help you reinforce students in a specific, immediate, genuine way? (Hint: Think School Store)

Types of acknowledgement:

Immediate/Frequent:

Intermediate (weekly?) – homework example

Large scale, school spirit oriented (school picnic?)