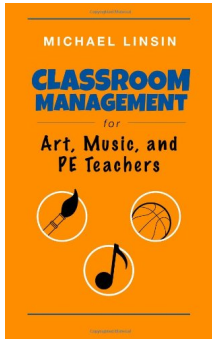
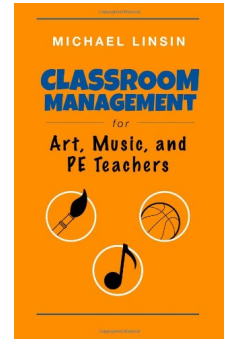


Book Review for Your Adult Brain

Classroom Management for Art, Music, and PE Teachers



Michael Linsin
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“You have to know how to manage your classroom in such a way that allows you to highlight the extraordinary joys and rewards creative work offers while minimizing the disruptions that conspire to undermine it.”

Last year, I saw this book highlighted on the AOSA facebook page and was intrigued by it. There were some comments on the thread about how wonderful of a book it was and I placed it on the “need to look into list” in my brain. Almost a year later, I had an order on Amazon that I needed a few more dollars for free shipping, (yes, I know, I should just get Prime...) so I ordered it. It then proceeded to sit on my desk at home for a month or two, and I finally read it on a recent road trip. WHOAH! Why did I wait so long?! This book is incredible! Mr. Linsin is a classroom teacher turned PE teacher and has a lot to say about us “specialists” and how things are simply different in our world than classroom teachers.

He breaks the book into six parts which discuss the variety of ideas that create each of our individual classroom management styles. Each of these six sections are broken down into two or three pages on clear concise ideas. This layout lends itself to a nice, quick, very easy to understand read. Sometimes classroom management books have lots of nice lofty ideas that are hard to imagine ever working in your classroom. Constantly throughout this book I found myself nodding along in agreement, or thinking, “oh, I’m **totally** going to have to try that this school year.” Linsin is very real in his explanation of classroom management techniques and I found that a lot of his thoughts really highlight the Orff-Schulwerk methodology when it comes to student creativity.

“In an effort to be the kind of teacher who will do anything for their students, too many teachers end up doing too much and stifling creative inspiration, expression, and enjoyment. THE VERY BEST SPECIALISTS KNOW WHEN TO BACK OFF. They know when to slip into the background and let their students explore and progress under their observing eye. As long as your students are working within the spirit by which you instructed them, let them be.”

I would highly recommend this book for any new teacher, student teacher, or even the seasoned teacher who just needs a refresher and good validation that as “specialists” we will always have unique challenges when it comes to classroom management. It would be a great addition to a PLC or district professional development time. I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did and can find something new to add to your daily routine!

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