Posting On Your Wall: More than Just Facebook

Classroom Bulletin Boards
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Ask the students this question and proceed with a class discussion.

How can a bulletin board promote physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of children?
How can the use of a bulletin board relate to the principles and theories of human development to teaching and training situations?

A bulletin board can accomplish so much more than being a creative display of information.
What is a theory?
It is an explanation or prediction about how something happens. For hundreds of years, people have tried to understand more about how people learn. They have developed theories based on research, observation and testing. However, the theories about learning are not facts.
These are all important developments in children, but for this lesson, we are going to focus on cognitive development.
A school-age child should know at least 13,000 words and be able to write simple sentences to short stories.

How can the use of a bulletin board promote cognitive development?

Can you describe a bulletin board you have seen recently that promoted cognitive development?
These theorists believe that children are active learners and they seek knowledge. They problem-solve and interact with the world around them and with other people.

Gardner’s Theory - Gardner said there are many types of learning and every child learns differently. Teachers and caregivers can foster learning by providing children with a variety of activities to develop their intelligences.
• Introduced multiple intelligences

Montessori’s Theory - She believed children should be given the tools to create their own learning experiences.
• Child-centered learning

Piaget’s Theory - He said that during the third stage of development (concrete operations) that children were capable of thinking more logically.
• Concrete Operations Period
• Group objects by shape, color or size
• Arrange objects by size such as small to large or large to small

Vygotsky’s Theory - Educators should provide children with as many experiences as possible to increase their learning opportunities.
• Increased social interactions = learning
• Group activities
Each of you know students who are really good in math. Others may do best in science or art or music. That is the basis of this theory. Each person has many intelligences.

Video:
Smartville is the Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy, a charter elementary school, in Gainesville, Georgia. The nickname embodies the schoolwide philosophy: At Enota, the theory that everyone possesses unique talents and aptitudes isn't just accepted and celebrated, it's an integral part of school culture. Kid-friendly labels for Howard Gardner's eight intelligences -- punchy interpretations like "word smart," "body smart," or "nature smart" -- pervade the school, appearing in hallway signs and classroom conversations. The real-world activities afforded by the school's village persona, staff members say, allow students to explore and express the multiple ways of being smart.

Multiple Intelligences
Thrive in Smartville at the Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy, in Gainesville, Georgia, students know exactly how they are smart.
http://www.edutopia.org/multiple-intelligences-immersion-enota-video
You will be creating a bulletin board and incorporating TEKS on your board and lesson.
Explain what the TEKs and students expectations are.

TEKS are broad statements describing what students should know and be able to do for each particular grade level. Students expectations describe what students should know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency in the objective.
As an educator, especially a teacher, you are required by the School Board of Education (SBOE) of Texas to cover all the TEKs in the grade level you are assigned.

Teacher note: After you click on the link, scroll down the page to view all the TEKS by Chapter.
What is the purpose of a bulletin board?

Ask the students this question and proceed with a class discussion.

A bulletin board can accomplish so much more than being a creative display of information.
Bulletin board displays serve multiple purposes. They convey information to the class and to parents, such as upcoming field trip information or tests. Bulletin boards can also serve as curriculum overviews to the upcoming lesson or unit.

Some teachers use bulletin boards to display a student’s work. This is a great idea because it helps to boost student confidence and shows students examples of what their peers are doing.

Lastly, displays make learning visible. Bulletin boards should focus on what was learned or what is to be learned. This is an interactive way to engage the student the moment they enter the classroom.
Types of Bulletin Boards
There are three types of bulletin boards teachers use in the classroom – display, informational and interactive.
Display boards are used to display student work. Teachers can display student work in a variety of ways. Student work can be showcased in the hallway or inside the classroom to demonstrate what students learned during a specific unit. This is a great way to show parents what their child is doing in your classroom. Display bulletin boards do not require a lot of planning; however, they do require frequent updating as the unit or lesson content is changed.
Informational bulletin boards help teachers reinforce specific skills from the lesson or unit they are covering in class. With this type of board, you should avoid clutter and instead, place an emphasis on what is most important for the student to learn. One way to highlight the items of most importance is to place a brightly colored piece of paper behind it.
Interactive bulletin boards invite students to interact with the board through manipulatives. Manipulatives are objects used by students to reinforce a lesson. Teachers should give clear, specific instructions on how to interact with this type of board.
Getting Creative with Bulletin Boards
Slide show of creative bulletin boards.
http://youtu.be/OhryLSx1DBw
Locations of Bulletin Boards
The location of the bulletin board is just as important as the content it contains. The board must be visible and easily seen from all angles of the classroom. The board does not need to be permanently attached to the classroom wall. Instead, there are many places in the classroom where a teacher can construct a bulletin board. Teachers can use the classroom door, the side of a tall file cabinet, a closet door, a tri-board, the front of the teacher’s desk, above or below the white board or simply on any wall of the classroom.
Creating Engaging Bulletin Boards
The secret to creating an engaging bulletin board display that doubles as a teaching tool is to create a display that is simple, attractive, functional and appropriate.
Keep the bulletin board simple – do not overcrowd the board with extra, unnecessary objects. Make sure the objects you place on the bulletin board have adequate white space surround them and that each component works together.
Children are instantly drawn to interesting, colorfully designed boards. Attractive boards that are visually appealing can engage student learners and prepare them for the upcoming lesson.
Bulletin boards should be designed with a purpose in mind. Before creating a bulletin board, ask yourself the following questions: What purpose will my board serve? What do I want my students to learn or gain from it? How will I use it in the classroom?

Use durable materials that can be used again in the future. This will save you time and money in the future.
Create boards that are age and content appropriate by paying close attention to the content placed on the board. Use the TEKs as a guide when determining what should and should not be placed on the board. This will help ensure that your board is geared toward the correct age and content.
December Bulletin Board Idea
(click on link)

Teacher note: Stop the YouTube™ video at 3:41 minutes.

December Standards Based Bulletin Board Guide
Ms. Daniel from www.msdanielsclassroom.edublogs.org shares her December Standards Based Bulletin Board display. She includes helpful tips and design ideas for creating monthly classroom bulletin board displays that are creative, easy to assemble, low (or no) cost, and demonstrate rigorous student learning.
http://youtu.be/vzeMWXWkZog
Who needs them?
What do they look like?
As a teacher, you need to pay attention to the way you communicate when presenting your bulletin board to your classroom. You communicate to your students in two ways – verbally and with body language.

Use words and terms the students will be able to understand and that are on their grade level. Be sure to introduce the board and how the students can use it in the classroom. Give clear instructions on how to use the board if it is an interactive board. The use of visual aids will enhance your presentation.

Practice your presentation until you feel comfortable.

Be aware of your body language as you present the board to your students. You can engage the students by the use of facial expressions and your body language to convey certain meanings, thoughts and ideas.
References and Resources

Books:
- Early Childhood Education Today, Twelfth Edition by George S. Morrison
- Introduction To Teaching: Becoming A Professional, (5th ed.), by Don Kauchak & Paul Eggen

Websites:
- Bulletin Boards and Other Displays
  - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill outlines four ways to use bulletin boards as a teaching tool in the classroom: to reinforce instructional goals, to communicate essential information, to include and motivate students and to make the classroom a more appealing place.
  - Bulletin Boards That Make Learning Visible
    - The Harvard Graduate School of Education describes how to create bulletin boards that teach.

Textbook:

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- Bulletin Boards and Other Displays
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    - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill outlines four ways to use bulletin boards as a teaching tool in the classroom: to reinforce instructional goals, to communicate essential information, to include and motivate students and to make the classroom a more appealing place.
    - Bulletin Boards That Make Learning Visible
      - The Harvard Graduate School of Education describes how to create bulletin boards that teach.
- HealthyChildren.org
  - Gradeschool
    - This website contains information about developmental milestones for children of all ages.
- Interactive Bulletin Boards for Secondary School Mathematics
  - Bulletin boards can be interactive learning tools in the mathematics classroom, and this website gives numerous examples of interactive math bulletin boards with instructions for creating them. It also gives the instructional strategies that go with each board.
- Pinterest
  - A quick search on Pinterest will give you plenty of examples of bulletin boards in the classroom.

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References and Resources

Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) Advisor Handbook - Competitive Events
http://www.tafeonline.org/?page=CompetitiveEvents

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Family and Consumer Science
The AgriLife Extension website provides teachers with useful information about educating children.
http://fcs.tamu.edu/

WebMD
Growth and development, ages 6 – 10 – what to expect.
The site has information about the developmental milestones of children.
http://children.webmd.com/growth-and-development-ages-6-10-years-what-to-expect

YouTube™:
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