

EPISODE 327

Making Time When There Is No Time To Get Into Classrooms



INSTRUCTIONAL
LEADERSHIP SHOW



Essential Question



Week after week, I'm getting into 0 classrooms. How can I break through?

Internal & External Barriers



If you're not getting into any classrooms at all, it's usually a combination of internal + external barriers



Internal Barriers



- What if I see something I'll need to address?
- What if it's not something I can solve right away?
- I'm better off not knowing
- No reason to go looking for trouble

Philosophy of Acceptance



- We must face the brutal facts
- Acknowledging the current reality does not mean accepting the status quo
- Improvement is the real work of leadership
- Improvement takes time—and more than telling
- Curiosity is a valid and sufficient first step

How Improvement Happens



- Direct feedback on practice
- Other supports for growth, e.g. training & coaching
- Indirect changes to conditions for teaching

Invest Time Now



- Preventing problems is the best-case scenario
- Catching them early is 2nd-best
- Noticing before other people do is 3rd best
- Waiting until they're unavoidable is worst

External Barriers

- Overwhelm
- Meetings
- Discipline
- Behavior calls



When You're Overwhelmed



- Don't overthink it
- Look at your notecards or roster
- Go visit whoever's up next
- Don't give yourself any extra work—just go
- Treat it as a break from other work
- No task but to be present & pleasant



Mr. Smith		117
Name		Room
Period/Subject	Date	Date
1- Alg 2a	10/17	
2- Alg 1b	11/2	
3- Geometry	9/22	1/8
4- Incl. Geo	11/16	x
5- Prep		
6- Alg. 2	10/5	1/17
7- Incl. Alg. 1	12/3	

TEACHER SCHEDULE & VISIT RECORD INDEX CARDS



THE PRINCIPAL CENTER



Freeing Up Time From Meetings



- Schedule for 20-25 or 40-45 minutes, not a full 30 or 60
- Train designee for IEP/ARD meetings
- Visit classrooms on the way to/from
- Look for small slots of time, not large blocks

Go While You're Out



- When am I already leaving the office?
- Which classrooms can I stop by?
- Can whatever's waiting for me wait 5 more minutes?

Top Opportunities To Visit Classrooms



Stop by on your way to or from:

- Recess duty
- Lunch duty
- Bus duty
- Formal observations
- Meetings around campus
- 1:1 check-ins

Discipline



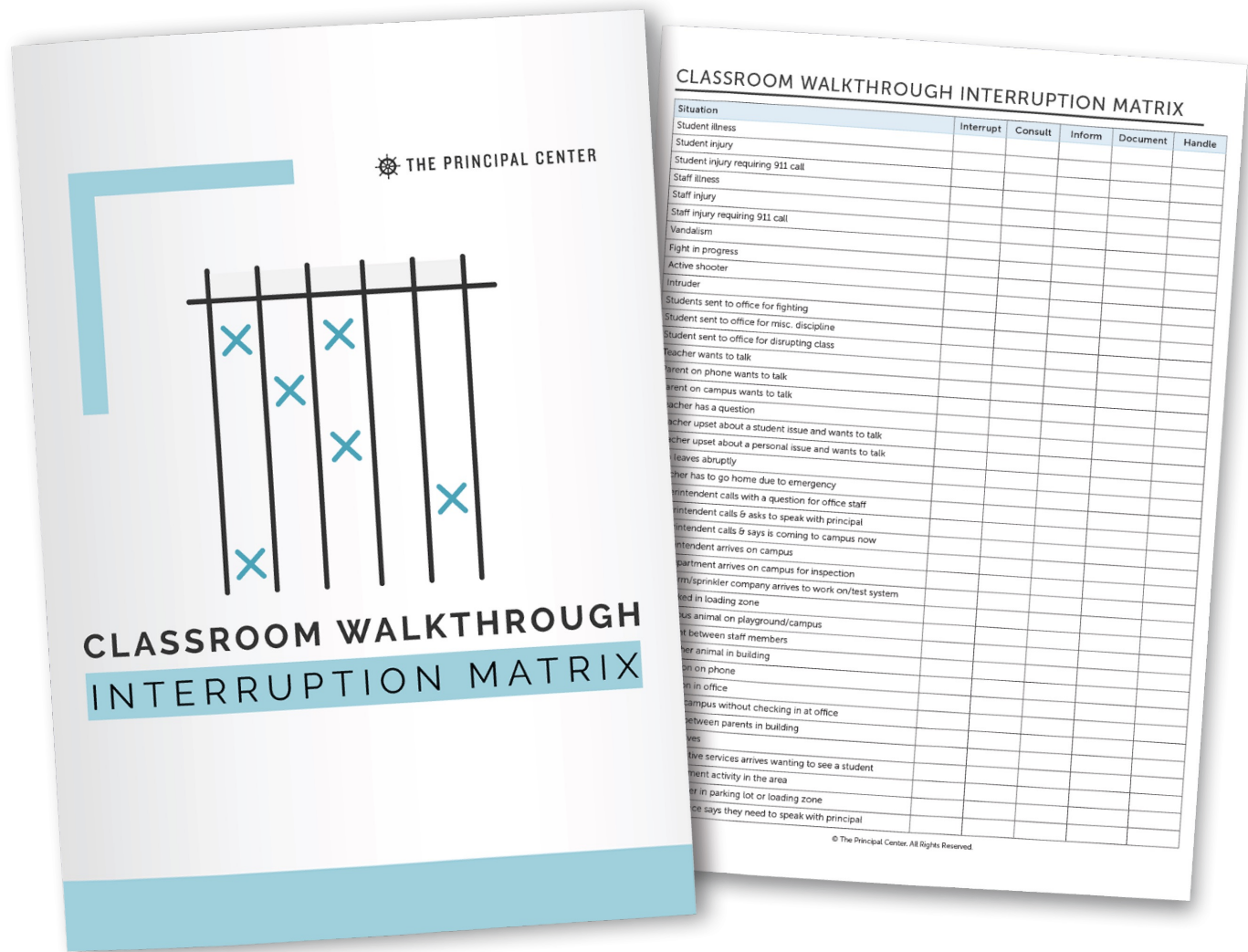
- Make students wait a few minutes—cool down
- Alternate classroom visits with discipline steps
- Stop by a classroom after returning a student

Behavior Calls



- Respond to urgency
- Have protected times for each admin
- Hand off to designated staff
- Calibrate expectations for interruptions

Interruption Matrix



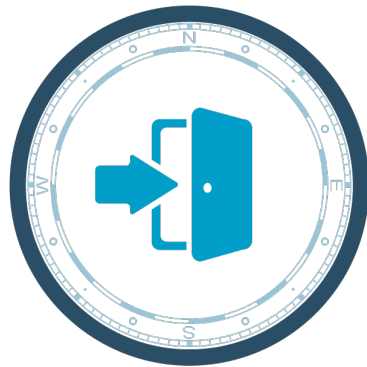
More Tools



dashboard.PrincipalCenter.com/toolbox



Full Strategy



EVIDENCE-DRIVEN

CLASSROOM WALKTHROUGH



CERTIFICATION



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