

# Exploring and Reflecting with an Agricultural Education Teaching Cohort:

Understanding how Pre-service Teachers Establish and Maintain Classroom Norms

By: Natalie Vaz and Dr. Josh Stewart

## Purpose

The purpose of this study was to explore how the candidates of the Agricultural Education teaching cohort at Oregon State University establish and maintain classroom norms during their student teaching internship.

## Methods

- We utilized a case study approach in order to explore the phenomenon in question.
- Participants included 3 teacher candidates who were student teaching during the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Data was collected through teacher candidate observations, follow-up interviews, and researcher field notes for triangulation purposes.
- Analyzing and coding field notes and memos fostered the generation of initial themes related to classroom norms the participants had (or had not) established.
- Interviews allowed a deeper understanding about participants' beliefs and understanding about classroom norms.

## Results

Five themes were identified.

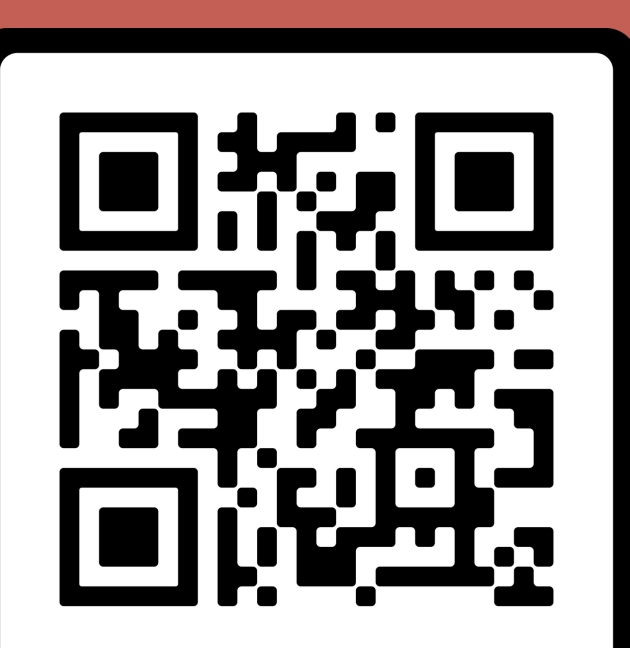
- 1 **Use of classroom contracts:** supported how the candidates established their classroom culture, including norms that both students and teacher agreed upon.
- 2 **Redirection of classroom norms:** it was evident through the observations that candidates frequently redirected their established norms.
- 3 **Growth and future aspirations:** candidates reflected on the importance of establishing and maintaining classroom norms from the start of their experiences and plan to implement this foundation into their future classrooms.
- 4 **Support:** candidates reflected on their desire to have more support from mentors in equipping them with the right tools related to norms.
- 5 **Motivation:** lived personal experiences and previous mentors inspire candidates to become experts in establishing and maintaining classroom norms.

## Recommendations

- **Assessment of agriculture teacher education programs to identify methods and strategies effective in facilitating curriculum development that helps support candidates in their overall classroom management efficiency.**
- **Assessment of tools and strategies, including observation and reflection protocols.**



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