

Tips for Utilizing Classroom Walls

The classroom walls can be either effective or ineffective teaching tools depending on the thought and planning that goes into their development.

Walls include chalkboard and dry-erase boards, chart paper and poster; they include bulletin and magnetic boards. Wall have many different uses, and can be divided into the following four categories: Walls that Teach, Walls that are Resources, Walls that Manage, and Walls that Decorate.

Walls That Teach:

Teachers use walls as instructional aids. Examples include graphic organizers like KWL charts, number grids and number lines, and standards and objectives.

Walls That Are Resources:

Students use maps and charts to help guide them instructionally and behaviorally. Resources that emerge from instruction and involve the students are even more dynamic and powerful.

Walls That Manage the Classroom:

Items that give students information about what is expected of them in terms of behavior, procedures, and routines help students become more responsible for themselves.

Walls That Decorate:

Classroom spaces should be clean, attractive, well-organized and intentional. It's important to create an atmosphere of purpose and order. Therefore, walls should also be talking, not screaming or babbling!