



Classroom Management Checkbook System

- Each student gets their own transaction form.

Date	Transaction	Debit	Credit	Work Space	Balance

 Christel-Clear Checking

- Staple transaction form inside a piece of construction paper. Color code if you have multiple classes. Students write their name on the front which helps you and substitute teachers learn their name.
- Checkbooks stay in the classroom. If you teach multiple classes then have a file folder with each class period labeled on it near the door. I always had a student pass them out when they came in. I always gave them a credit for working.
- Students earn credits by answering questions, being on task, being ready and responsible, making good choices, doing classroom jobs ... etc. The teacher can decide how much to give the student when giving credits/deposits. I found it easier to just give what I wanted at that moment versus having a set credit for different behaviors. For example, I would say: "This is a \$10 question, are you ready?" If it was a more challenging question I might say: "Here is a \$20 question, are you ready?" You can really get the students excited by varying the amount. I made some students millionaires!
- You take money away when students make poor choices or are not ready and responsible. For example: the only set dollar debit I had was when students did not have a pencil or had an unsharpened one. I always charged them \$2. This eliminated students getting up in the middle of a lesson to sharpen their pencil. They either had extra with them or they were charged \$2 for using one of mine. I personally hate sharpening pencils, so I gave credits/deposits to students that sharpened them for me after class/school.
- When I saw a negative behavior that I wanted removed, I located a student doing the right behavior and rewarded them with a deposit. For example: "I like how Johnny has his work out and is waiting for further directions. You get a \$20 deposit." The other students quickly follow along.
- When dealing with a student that was upset about a debit, I always encouraged them by saying: "You just lost \$5 for not being on task. When I walk around the room and come back, if you are working then you can earn a credit. Make the right choice."

- Inspect what you expect! When I introduced the checkbook system, I explained how I inspect their debits and credits to make sure their math is correct along with no cheating. The first two weeks you need to watch closely. You will find some students struggle with adding and subtracting decimals. I have had students that do not know where to place the \$ sign. This system helps students with math as well as uses real life skills of balancing an account.
- You will find that some students will ask for money. I always told them that I take money away if you ask for it. It eliminates that issue quickly.
- You can give credits and take debits outside of your classroom. Examples: catching a student helping another student in the hallway or a student misbehaving in a fine arts class.
- Rewards: You can be creative with rewards. When I taught elementary with the same students every day, I made the reward system more frequent. I would take the top two dollar amounts and let them pick a friend to eat in the classroom with instead of the cafeteria. You can give the class extra recess if they reach a certain value. I did this about every two weeks. When I taught multiple classes every day, I did the reward at the end of the marking period. One example of a reward that I did was a Read-In. I put tents up in the room and students were able to wear PJ's and read their favorite books. We roasted marshmallows and ate S'mores. When I needed more participation in a lesson, I would start the class by saying "The first person who earns \$100 today gets to drink this soda in class." You can get creative or you can ask students for ideas that motivate them. Once the reward occurs then everyone goes back to zero, and you start again.
- Don't tell! You can give whole class deposits for cleaning up the room or transitioning quickly into a new lesson, but don't point out that it just keeps each of them in the same place compared to their classmates meaning it doesn't push them to first place. I never had a student figure this one out on their own. You can get a clean room quickly as well as start a lesson faster.
- There are so many creative things you can do with this system. If you have students wanting to sit in certain areas in the room, then you can charge them rent for that space. If students want to work with certain students on a project then they can pay to do that. It keeps them working hard so they earn enough for that reward.