

■ Foreword

Any educator can tell you that a teacher who is confident and has a repertoire of common sense-based classroom strategies is by far the best prepared when it comes to the well-being of students. These teachers are more apt to make good choices when faced with the many decisions, both large and small, that must be made every school day.

Deciding quickly on the right course of action when one is confronted with a classroom issue can be an arduous task for some teachers. They find themselves frustrated to discover that what they believed to be the right answer has failed to solve the problem. These same teachers may discover that some students have a sixth sense when it comes to detecting—and too often breaking—the unsure teacher. These educators need common-sense advice that can be used quickly and successfully, and they need it immediately. *Common-Sense Classroom Management for Middle and High School Teachers*, by Jill Lindberg, Dianne Evans Kelley, and April Swick, provides a wealth of practical, sure-fire ideas that can help build classroom success. It offers teacher-tested strategies that will instill confidence in new educators and add to the repertoire of experienced teachers.

As an educator, I firmly believe one of the most important things to do is to share with colleagues tried-and-true practices that work. In fact, master teachers will tell you that the many techniques they use to successfully manage their classrooms are gleaned both from years of experience, and from a give-and-take of ideas with colleagues they know to be superior educators. In today's schools, heavy responsibilities often limit time teachers have to share with each other. This book is almost like having a successful teacher available anytime good advice or counsel is needed.

At a time when many teachers feel uncertain and confused, *Common-Sense Classroom Management for Middle and High School Teachers* offers guidelines and advice that will be welcomed. It presents a practical approach to classroom management that is based firmly on instinct and backed by years of experience. Here, readers are fortunate to find an indispensable tool that goes beyond the norm and provides specific, teacher-tested strategies for successfully addressing the needs of middle and high school students.

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