MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

School of Education and Human Services

Department of Teacher Education

EDU 5900 xxx

Course Title: Transform Your Classroom: Positive Behavior Strategies for Joyful Learning (3 credits)

Semester Year: Summer Institute 2026

Instructor: Mallory Lensing

Email: mlensing@molloy.edu

Office hours: As requested

Course Description:

This course equips elementary educators—both seasoned and new—with practical strategies and tools to implement effective positive behavior management systems that foster a joyful, safe, and inclusive classroom environment. For new teachers, this course provides foundational knowledge and tools to establish a well-managed classroom from the start. For seasoned teachers, it offers opportunities to reflect on and enhance current practices while exploring new strategies for addressing the changing needs of today's students. Teachers will develop or strengthen the skills needed to create inclusive, well-managed classrooms by setting clear expectations, using positive reinforcement, fostering a strong classroom community, establishing effective routines, addressing challenging behaviors constructively, and nurturing students' intrinsic motivation and social-emotional growth. By the end of the course, all participants will create a customized positive behavior management plan that will both support a more engaging and well-structured learning environment and be ready for immediate application in the classroom.

Shared Vision

The Molloy University Teacher Education faculty has derived its vision for the exemplary teacher from the University's mission statement, the four pillars of the Dominican tradition, comments and input from the Professional Education Unit's Advisory Board and degree candidates as well as numerous faculty discussions rooted in the department's knowledge base which undergirds the initial and advanced programs' curriculum, pedagogy, and values.

The teaching professionals who complete Molloy's teacher preparation programs are distinguished by their ability to exemplify and promote core values in their own teaching. These values include:

Belief that all children can learn

Learner-centered and value-centered curriculum and pedagogy

Ethics and spirituality

Intellectual curiosity

Independence and risk-taking, while promoting collective identity and responsibility

Diversity, multiculturalism, and pluralism, including divergent thinking

Passion for teaching

Commitment to students and their communities

Civic responsibility through the promotion of social justice and interdependence

Commitment to democracy

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will be able to...

☐ **Understand** the purpose and application of structured behavior systems within a classroom.

☐ **Design** multiple behavior systems that promote a safe, positive, and well-organized classroom environment.

☐ **Engage** in collaborative discussions to **analyze**, **evaluate**, and **reflect** on classroom management strategies by learning from peers' experiences and perspectives

Course Format:

This course will be offered online through Canvas, Molloy's learning management system. The course will open two days before the start date and close one week after the last day of class. There will be daily activities and discussions that must be completed at the end of each day. On the final day of class there will be a virtual meeting to provide a presentation of the final assignment.

Required Readings, Videos, and Other Materials:

All materials will be provided throughout the course on Canvas.

Assignments:

Assignment	Where to Post
Discussion 1: Introduce yourself, your experience and why you're interested in behavior systems for your classroom	Discussion: Introductions
Module 1 Assignment: Create a Whole Classroom Behavior System	Submission: Module 1
Module 2 Discussion: Catching Students Doing the Right Thing and Having Eyes Everywhere!	Discussion: Module 2
Module 3: Create Class Wide Personal Motivators	Submission: Module 3
Module 4: Individualized Behavior Plans	Discussion: Module 4
Module 4 : Create an Example of an Individualized behavior system for the kids who need it most	Submission: Module 4
Module 5: Case Study Reflection - Choose one of three case studies and implement an appropriate behavior system within this case.	Submission: Module 5
Presentation: Zoom meeting presentation of a behavior system.	In Person Presentation on Zoom

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Asynchronous Discussions/Participation   100 points each (3 discussions)

Assignments   150 points each (4 assignments)

Presentation of Assignment   100 points

Molloy University and School of Education and Human Services Policies and Supports:

Expectations of Academic Integrity for All Students

Honor Pledge and Academic Honesty Policy

Course Withdrawals

View Withdrawal Policy for potential financial implications

View the Academic Calendar and/or the course syllabus for the last day to withdraw dates

Incompletes

Incompletes Policy

Health and Wellness

Student Health Services

Student Counseling Center (SCC)

Center for Access and Disability (Access)

Center for Access and Disability

Technical Support

[Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#)

Ally for Canvas

[Supportive Tools and Resources/ Ally](#)

Email Accounts

Students are to communicate via their Molloy e-mail account or via Canvas throughout the semester. Those who use a non-Molloy account may miss important messages. Students are responsible for responding to all methods of communication relating to this course in a timely fashion. Instructors will respond to emails from students within 24 hours. When/ if you email the instructor(s), please indicate what course you are in with the course number and section.