The most prominent classroom management strategy implemented by the teachers in my classroom is proximity during instruction time. While one teacher is instructing, the other is able to walk around and ensure students are on task. This proximity also makes it easier for students to ask questions as they have a teacher coming to them throughout the lesson, as opposed to having to raise their hand to get a teacher's attention. This is the most effective classroom management technique I witnessed in the classroom as it really helps prevent off task behaviors. Another strategy implemented is a clear bathroom policy. There is one pass on the wall that students have access to. There is only one so students know that if it is not on the hook, they must wait for another student to get back. This also helps cut down on the amount of time students are out of the classroom because they know there could be another person waiting for the pass.

One classroom management weakness I have seen in the classroom relates to phone use. Proximity is routinely used while students are going over notes and doing examples with the teacher. However, the teachers tend to stop circulating the room while students have work time. Also, there does not seem to be a clear phone policy in the classroom. It appears they are allowed unless the teacher considers them to become a problem. This inconsistency leads to many students using work time to just be on their phones instead of trying problems. This highlights a larger difficulty with classroom management, that it takes consistency in implementation. If what is expected of students changes every day, they will be confused and frustrated when rules are enforced because it won't be clear to them why the rule was enforced in that case and not in others. This can also lead to students feeling targeted if they feel like they are the only one subjected to the rule.

According to Said in, "4 Ways to Reduce Smartphone Distractions" it is important to have clear boundaries in the classroom for when phones are allowed and when they are not allowed. For example, there could be a policy so that students are allowed to have their phone for the first few minutes of class to send off the last few texts before putting their phones away for the remainder of class. Another way to reduce phone use in class to create an engaging lesson. If students are actually participating in the learning, they are less likely to be bored and pull their phone out.

Another classroom management article I read was, "Why I Embrace Seating Charts in High School". Davenport states that seating charts can benefit students by placing them in a seat where they can be set up for success. The teacher can give students a survey at the beginning of the semester to fill out so teachers can place students. Further, they can be changed as needed if a seat is not working out for a student. Davenport states that seating charts shouldn't be presented as a punishment, but rather something the teacher is doing to help students be engaged in the work. It also gives students the ability to talk to the teacher privately about desired changes rather than being the ones to change seats, which could bring attention to this decision and cause conflict between students.

I would be very likely to implement seating charts in my future classroom. I like the idea of taking seating pressure off students, but still being able to privately collaborate with students to find the best seat for them. I believe this also helps to make accommodations for students, such as having a clear plan for seating for students with paras or other helpers.

Articles Referenced:

https://www.edutopia.org/article/personal-devices-use-in-the-classroom

https://www.edutopia.org/article/seating-charts-high-school