

For Immediate Release

**REVOLUTIONARY
PETERS PROCEDURES
TRANSFORMING CLASSROOMS from CHAOS TO CHARACTER**

**Focus on “Character Based Education through Classroom Management”
Helps create a New American Student Culture**

Beginning in a rough inner city ESL classroom at Stephens Middle School in Long Beach, California, the incredibly effective, student character building process known, as Peters Procedures stands poised to revolutionize America’s long-suffering education system. Created by Genevieve Peters in her first year as a full time teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District, the program offers an extremely effective, easy to implement system designed to create well managed, disciplined, respectful students through proven classroom management procedures. Applying these principles, bedraggled and discouraged teachers all over are finding a new enthusiasm for their calling, and formerly aimless, rude students are now focused and well mannered.

Implementing Peters Procedures, a teacher’s days of facing disinterested faces, fending off spitballs and hearing “Huh?” and “Dunno” as responses are long gone. Yelling out, idle threats, referrals to the principal and exasperation with difficult students, not under Peters Procedures system, where respect and courtesy become the norm, self-management reign superior and real learning takes place.

Sound too good to be true? Imagine a classroom full of professional-minded, respectful students. One where students greet each other with handshakes and learn the value of simple, life affirming phrases like “good morning,” “thank you” and “excuse me.” Imagine being able to teach a classroom full of academically engaged, respectfully empowered students for an entire period.

When Peters began substitute teaching at Stephens Middle School in 1998, she encountered such a hostile, disinterested environment where little valuable learning could take place. Once hired as a full time teacher the district gave her a book called First Day of School by veteran educator Harry Wong, which outlined some general guidelines for effective classroom management. She took the chapter on procedures to the “Nth” degree and created specific procedures for every situation she or the students may encounter.

“I decided to create detailed Procedures to address social and academic issues the students would encounter embedded with discipline, manners, and academic focus. I addressed things from how to speak to the teacher to working through an interruption, respectful ways to ask and answer questions, and even how to enter the classroom and get right to work,” says Peters, who won the coveted Long Beach Rotary Club Educator of the Month Award just months into her first year.

“I wanted to go deeper, beyond simple survival and routine classroom management to the core of the students’ characters,” she adds. “I want to empower the kids, self-direct them, encourage them to approach school like professionals, and keep them accountable. The goal is to nurture future adults who can go out into the world, carrying these core principles as part of their being.”

Peters says, “Creating and teaching procedures that address the very issues and concerns that create a chaotic learning environment for both teacher and student is a way to foster this. It’s all about teaching the core foundational skills that creates a learning environment that’s safe, academically focused and, there’s that word again, professional. Most importantly, it’s about turning your classroom into an exciting, challenging place where true meaningful and teachable moments happen. Kids and teachers need to know they are safe and valued. Kids need to be able to practice over and over again what it means to be responsible, respectful and focused. With this system they get that chance.”

All together, there are 40 character based classroom procedures in Peters’ process. Among these are “Entering the Classroom” (two straight lines, shirts tucked in, ladies enter first, a designated greeter shaking everyone’s hands); “When a School wide Announcement Is Made” (fold hands, look towards speaker); “Conflict Resolution/Avoiding Disagreements and Fights” (asking “What have I done?” “What could I have done differently?” apologizing); “Being Beautiful, Handsome, Healthy and Fit” (character is more important than looks, becoming a person of high regard every day, addressing health and diet issues); and Addressing People (using words like “Excuse me,” and addressing adults you don’t know with “Sir” and “Ma’am”). Every procedure teaches and positively reinforces respect, leadership, and focus.

“Teachers are often so overwhelmed with curriculum and content, trying to cover every topic by a certain time on the calendar, that they often don’t feel they have time to teach these important basics to set the foundation for the coming year,” says Peters. “My semesters begin with what I call ‘Peters Procedures Boot Camp,’ in which every student becomes an expert at one procedure and teaches the rest of the kids before we begin any curriculum. This sets the foundation for our classroom culture and creates the professional environment every teacher is after.”

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*Genevieve Peters, founder of **Peters Procedures: The Character Foundation Kids Need to Succeed.** Classroom Management system is an award-winning California credentialed teacher born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She made California her home in 1986 and received her teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach in 1990. Without delay, Genevieve began teaching for Long Beach Unified School District where her classroom management program achieved community, district, and state recognition, including the making of a new teacher training video of the **Peters Procedures: Chaos to Character** TM system.*

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