

MASTER CONTROL PROGRAM (MCP) Green/Yellow/Red features

[space]GYR features:

Tapping the spacebar changes the signal light color to the NEXT color in sequence.

A natural green-yellow-red sequence mimics what they will see at most American signal lights on the road.

For visual reinforcement, the DATE, TIME, and A/B/C/D indicators change color in sync.

The Green/Yellow/Red AUTOMATICALLY changes as the class period progresses.

No intervention is needed for the following events:

GREEN

Upon release (the PacMan sound).

You'll also notice a countdown timer appear reminding students of when they should be seated at their NEXT destination.

YELLOW

Upon reaching 1 minute remaining on the countdown timer (along with a single "ping"),

And LATER, upon reaching 5 minutes remaining in the class period (the slide-whistle alert). Use this for pacing as needed.

** USAGE TIP: Students often use this to determine if they actually have time to use the restroom during the passing period.

RED

When the timer reaches 0:00 (along with the ascending echo).

That 0:00 will remain for 15 seconds to reinforce the event.

Notice the RED indicator occurs 30 seconds prior to the "tardy bell" to reinforce scholarly behavior.

** USAGE TIP: The passing period timer has been designed to be at 0:00 at exactly 30 seconds prior to the beginning of class ("tardy bell" if you will).

This will reinforce the idea that if you walk into a room, meeting, etc. at EXACTLY the predetermined meeting time, you're actually LATE.

Students should be in their seats, ready to work BEFORE the bell if possible (NOT walking in the room in typical rebellious teenage fashion).

I recall giving specific rewards to students in their seats at 0:00 to reinforce this behavior. It's great training for real-world job expectations.

** MORE USAGE TIPS: Feel free to use this as a classroom management "MODE" indicator (think back to "The First Days of School" by Harry and Rosemary Wong).

Students absolutely LOVE to hit the spacebar to assist the teacher. Careful planning can turn a student from annoyance to ALLY.

Brainstorm ideas within your grade level team on ways to use this individually or as a standard across the team.

The suggestions below can (SHOULD?) also be placed on the wall so students and (teams of) teachers may collaborate on their contents (think Criteria Chart).

RED mode:

Silent work (such as taking a test -- hand raise for attention).

Individual work (such as journaling before partner sharing).

Seated in desk (no movement without permission).

YELLOW mode:

Very quiet work (such as think/pair/share -- hand raise for attention).

Paired work (such as a partner quiz).

Seated in desk (no movement without permission).

GREEN mode:

Volume as needed (such as group work or alerting the teacher upon completion -- hand raising optional).

Group work (such as exploratory tasks often are in middle school).

Move RESPONSIBLY as needed (no permission needed if class is well trained).

As always, your mileage may vary, so help your team members who may be NEW to a more structured classroom management routine.

"An ounce of prevention..." (you know the rest)