How to Engage Students

2020-2021
ZOOM ETIQUETTE

ONLINE CLASSROOM RULES

- Raise your hand to answer questions
- Don’t make fun of classmates
- Keep your wallpaper looks funny! Haha!
- Keep your camera on unless you have permission to turn it off
- Keep your microphone off unless you are answering something
- NO taking pictures of people in class
- NO! Don’t forget to greet your classmates and teacher. Hi + bye!
- Try to join class in a quiet and organized space
- Be on time
- Stay awake and attentive during class
Today's Schedule

Day:

- Morning Meeting
- Announcements
- Morning Greeting
- English
- Math
- Science/Social Studies
- Specials
Example Questions...
Where should students check for updates from you, and how often?

When students have questions, how should they ask them? Is there a certain location or way you want all work to be submitted?

Will there be a regularly scheduled daily or weekly synchronous meeting students can look forward to?

Can you use virtual agenda or weekly planning slides to help students get organized?

We can create a safe, structured space for students when we are consistent with our virtual classroom routines. Think about your first-time teaching or anytime you’ve switched school districts. It’s hard to truly feel like part of the community until you learn how that school operates...expectations, daily routines, bell schedules, office locations. School (even virtual school!) feels more like “home” with routines and norms in place that we understand at that magnify our learning and friendships.
What can office hours look like?

All students may not attend virtual meetings.

What can we do to make sure, that we meet with the students who do not sign on?

When students do not log on for, schedule appointments that span a certain time period.

Make sure students and parents are aware this is a requirement.

How to engage students to sign on?
Meeting with students in small groups can help to boost confidence.
Every student wants to be seen...to be known and understood by
His or her teacher, even if they don’t act like it.
Classroom Meetings

In person a classroom meeting consists of some announcements, a social emotional check-in with students, answering questions, and goal setting.

**WHY NOT DO IT ONLINE?**

- *How are you today?* (Have students draw a picture response and show it in the camera.)
- *Show me (on a scale from one to ten) your level of preparation for class today.*
- *How much time did it take you to complete our eLearning lesson (today, yesterday, etc.)?*
- *What’s an area of online learning that is frustrating for you right now that we might be able to problem solve?*

Breakout rooms for students how can they utilized
Class jobs help build community and help students feel ownership over their classroom.

Students should feel like the virtual space is their classroom. That’s where virtual jobs can be used. This also gives students the opportunity to share, what they might have shared with permission. Although I like to give ALL students a job, this is what I have so far.

Class Jobs (and brief description):

- **Attendance Taker** - keep track of who was able to attend each virtual session
- **Class Greeter** - greet each student as they sign on
- **Joke Master** - produce a joke to tell the class during the grounding or beginning of lesson (send to teacher in chat prior to saying it)
- **Meteorologist** - look up the weather prior to class and share with the class for that day or the following day
- **Class DJ** - find a song for each class period to either start or end with (teacher has preapproved list for students to pick from)
- **Calendar Helper** - share the date, day of the week, etc. and any special holidays or birthdays coming up
- **Teacher’s Assistant** - anything that the teacher might need
A virtual classroom community is more effective when parents are involved.
We want parents to be our partners, our cheerleaders, and our reinforcers.

Consider...
Using a **program** like Remind, Class Dojo, or Seesaw in which parents can create an account and see all of the assignments, due dates, and notifications from you.

Sending home a weekly **newsletter** or posting **updates** on your website so that parents are aware of the big learning goals and executive functioning tasks for the week.

Inviting parents to **listen** to recorded or synchronous lessons so they can help their children at home.

Asking parents to be **guest speakers** (if they want!) to talk about how they use reading and/or writing in the workplace.

Some student's parents may not be able to be a large part of their child's educational experience. So, whatever we do to include parents, we need to be mindful of those students who don’t have unlimited support at home. Also, as you know some parents are working full time and feel stretched thin.
Sample Games:

- **Bamboozle** is a fun website that has games for a variety of learners about grammar, idioms, and vocabulary. You can find ideas for games like *Fact or Opinion?*, *Give Me Five*, *Would You Rather*, and *Have You Ever?* Some of the games are geared for elementary, but many can be adapted for older students to play synchronously in small groups or as a whole class.

Why play games???

- Ultimately, a healthy virtual classroom community is not something that can be purchased.
- We can’t buy information about students, the time it will take us to converse with them, or the empathy and patience needed to do this job well.
- Ultimately, building a virtual classroom community comes back to purposeful routines and instructional strategies that make students feel seen, included, and understood.

When all else fails, play games. Whether the you play games as a whole class, in small groups, or asynchronously, games can add an element of fun to our virtual classroom community.
Think about it

• It’s important that we prioritize virtual reading and writing mini lessons with think alouds – even with older students. We need to show them that thought process that we would normally model in person. How does a reader check comprehension? How does text structure help us as readers? What does the writing process look like at home?

A few ideas...

• Offer read alouds (live and/or recorded)
• Have students share what they are reading or offer some of your own favorite high-interest text suggestions... this resource can help you organize and link everything
• Ask students to share their writing with peers (even if it’s just a few of their favorite sentences)
• Introduce texts students are not as familiar with but that are ideal for online learning (like podcasts and infographics)
• Chunk writing projects into smaller bites that are less overwhelming (build confidence and give yourself some time to provide meaningful feedback)

Sharing reading and writing is a way to build classroom community – in every subject area! Can we do this virtually? YES!!!
In a strong virtual classroom community, students know one another’s names and use them frequently.

It seems simple, but students learn one another’s names and faces by interacting with one another regularly. Virtually, we must prioritize it. We can spend time during each synchronous meeting with get to know you activities, arrange for regular small group interactions, or assign asynchronous “learn about your classmates” activities.

And, it is helpful to put together an online class yearbook page (whether each student has his or her own page in a Slide deck or we use Padlet or another online program to organize everyone’s names and faces). Include each student’s name, picture, and a random fact. This type of reference will be so helpful for students, and it will reduce that awkward feeling of working with someone and not wanting to ask his or her name for the third time.
In a classroom community, students know their teacher. In person, it's easier to learn about someone, but there are some things we can do virtually as well.

It comes down to inserting your personality in everything you do.


Make sure students can see part of YOU in your learning management system. Whether you’re personalizing with a memorable quote, a GIF, self-created memes, candy, or Bitmoji classrooms, your students will feel more connected to you if they know something about who you really are.

We can also let students ask us questions! What do you want to know about me? Fill out this Form, and I’ll be answering one or two questions each week! Or, if you want to get them used to your learning management system, create a virtual scavenger hunt where they have to look in different places for clues about you (hyperlinked videos or docs, the updates stream, posted questions, discussion threads, FlipGrid posts, etcetera).
• https://www.albert.io/blog/building-relationships-teaching-remotely/#:~:text=Take%20your%20class%20on%20a,virtual%20conferences%2C%20and%20interactive%20assignments

• https://www.readingandwritinghaven.com/12-ways-to-build-a-virtual-classroom-community/