Building Effective Relationships with Students

ESTABLISHING CONNECTEDNESS AND COMMUNICATION VIRTUALLY

According to the CDC, **school connectedness** is the belief held by students that *adults in the school care* about their **learning** as well as about **them as individuals.**

STRATEGIES: COMMUNICATING CONNECTEDNESS

1 Implement high standards and expectations, and provide academic support to all students

Affirm and Harness Growth
- Send individualized messages to give students **shout-outs** to affirm their effort and growth
- Provide feedback on **opportunities** for growth; provide **additional resources** to support; **embed** opportunities for practice into new material

Carry Out Student Check-Ins
- Provide **academic** and **emotional check-ins through** electronic forms and prompt discussions for students to share how they feel or are processing in a variety of ways (ex. an emoji or a color)

2 Create trusting and supportive student-teacher relationships

Cultivate Teacher Presence
- Pre-record a "welcome to class" message to greet and **establish** communication **expectations** for students, parents, and families
- Reflect your sense of **'realness'** to students (ex. family vacation pictures and self-created memes)
- Provide opportunities for three-way communication (ex. office hours)

Show Care for Students
- Create opportunities for students to share what **inspires** and **motivates** them; try to **integrate** these elements into instructional materials (ex. goal-setting)
- Be aware of **societal concerns** that may impact students and their community's well-being; demonstrate **compassion**, **empathy**, and **cultural responsiveness**

3 Create trusting student-student relationships

Foster Community
- Use interactive tools (ex. digital whiteboards) to collect student ideas about online environment rules
- Within weekly emails/newsletters/announcements, incorporate **Questions of the Day** using interactive tools
- Incorporate activities that **encourage response** from peers (ex. Flipgrid voice threads and SeeSaw)

Utilize Collaborative and Cooperative Strategies
- Encourage small group discussion through the use of video conferencing breakout rooms
- Embed **peer-learning** and **peer-review** opportunities into activities
- Incorporate **cooperative** team-building brain breaks

References
- Bevin's blog. *Virtual learning: 33 ways to build relationships.* http://teachtrainlove.com/virtual-learning-33-ways-to-build-relationships/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). School connectedness: Strategies for increasing protective factors among youth. https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/protective/pdf/connectedness.pdf
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. (n.d.). School connectedness: Improving students' lives. https://www.casciac.org/pdfs/SchoolConnectedness.pdf

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