Video Conferencing

## Encouraging Engagement in Video Conferencing

Virtual, synchronous learning can be more challenging than traditional, face-to-face learning. More importantly, engagement in virtual learning can be challenging to detect, especially since students may have more opportunities to be distracted. It might be beneficial to approach blended and online learning with these three dimensions in mind: participation, interactivity, and response.

PRIMARY GRADES

Goal: Focus on conditioning students to actively and appropriately engage in their learning. If possible, it is beneficial to adjust the length of video calls to ensure student engagement.

Participation

Use virtual points and leaderboards to reward students for their engagement and participation

Interactivity
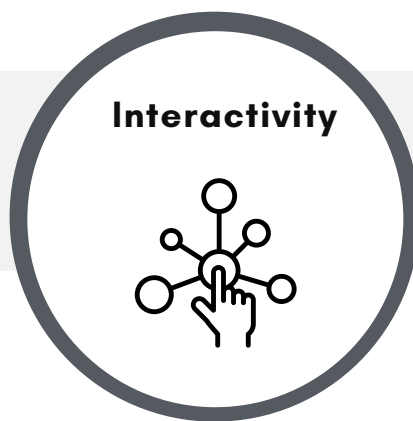
Use virtual show-and-tell; revamp home materials for class materials; gamify learning; virtual field trips; virtual 3D models

Response

Use reactions and gestures; use buzzwords or phrases to change focus (ex. put on our thinking caps); use assessments that are interactive

MIDDLE GRADES

Goal: Focus on conditioning students to thrive in their blended and online learning through active note-taking and posing relevant questions. When possible, it is beneficial to adjust the length of whole group instruction to ensure student engagement. One approach is to maximize collaboration through breakout rooms.

Participation

Have students be class or group leaders; use virtual participation points
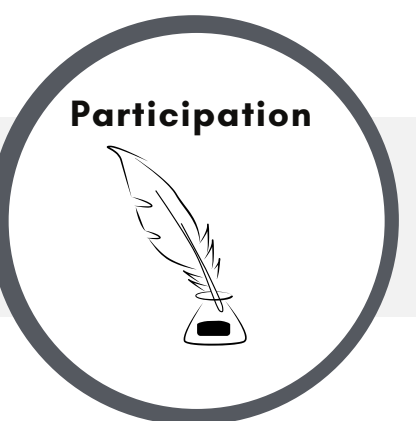
Interactivity
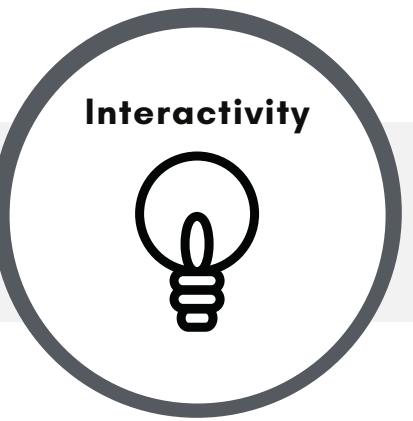
Consider using collaborative strategies (e.g., think-pair-share); flipped learning models; virtual 3D models; gamify learning; breakout rooms; use shareable files

Response

Use reactions; polling; electronic forms for exit tickets; students' clothing color (ex. Someone wearing red today, share your thoughts.)

SECONDARY GRADES

Goal: Focus on conditioning students to thrive in their blended and online learning through self-regulated learning. Consider adjusting the length of whole group instruction to ensure student engagement and collaboration. Continue to promote individual student accountability.

Participation

Periodically sharing teacher observations of students' engagement with the student; have students rotate as a scribe for their group
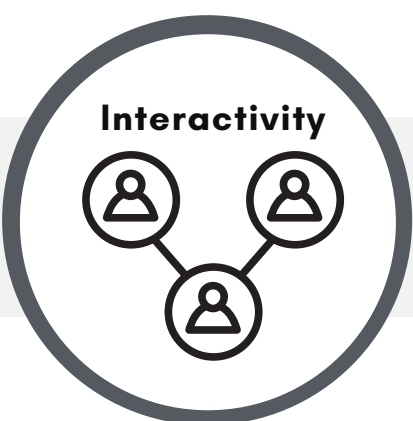
Interactivity

Use flipped learning models to promote more interactivity and discussion during synchronous learning; gamify learning; breakout rooms; use shareable files

Response

Use polling, GIFs, memes, and reactions to describe their understanding of material