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Relationships Matter: Welcoming Ritual Prompts

Target Audience: Older Elementary, Middle, High School



Warm Welcomes establish safety and predictability, support contribution by all voices, set norms for respectful listening, allow people to connect with one another, and create a sense of belonging. To be successful they must be: carefully chosen, connected to the content/work of the day, engagingly facilitated, and thoughtfully debriefed.

**Disclaimer: One must consider student needs, classroom culture, relationships, etc. prior to the introduction on each activity. Modify accordingly.*

Teacher Trait Wish List/ Recipe for a Great Teacher

- At the beginning of the school year, ask students to create their top 5 (or 10) teacher trait wish list or have them create a recipe for a great teacher (1 cup respect, 1 cup empathy, 2 cups honesty, 1 cup support, ½ c humor, ½ c inspiration, etc). The amounts will help you know how important the different ingredients are to your students.
- Ask students for clarification for what it looks like, sounds like and feels like for a teacher to demonstrate the different traits.
- Keep their lists/recipes to refer to throughout the year or offer chances for students to update quarterly.

SEL Targets: Self Awareness, Relationship skills.

How Are You Feeling?

- Prompt students to share how they are feeling in different and fun ways. This can help students who are struggling to find the right word to describe their feelings.
- Students may share this in pairs, groups, independently or as a class. They do not have to share their why although some students may want to.
 - Using a song or genre of music
 - Using the weather
 - Using an emoji or GIF
 - Using a Movie genre
 - Using images
 - Using a season

SEL Targets: Self Awareness, Relationship skills.

Do You See What I See?

Provide students with an image, shape or design that is either obvious or abstract. Example: Peace sign, triangle, zigzag etc. Ask students to challenge their perspective by recreating the image. What once was a circle, triangle or zigzag can become the base of an ice cream cone or even an animal. You can offer this creative challenge as a daily welcoming ritual. This creative activity supports social awareness and relationships skills through development of flexible thinking skills, perspective taking and appreciation of others. New images can be created daily! Modification: For a teamwork alternative, group students in pairs to complete the image together.

SEL Targets: Relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision making.