

# Building Community: Promoting Relationships Virtually and In Person

Forming Connections, Community, and Authentic  
Relationships with Students



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# Community Agreements

- PD will begin and end on time
- Be present and engaged
- Be willing to share
- Solution-oriented discussion
- Assume good intentions



# Learning Targets For Today



- **Understanding the importance of community and relationships within classrooms**
- **Discuss strategies you may use**
- **Become familiar with available resources**
- **Learn from one another**



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# WHY Relationships?



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# Relationships and School Climate

**How do relationships with your students impact your classroom?**



# Why Relationships Matter

- **Students are happier, healthier, and more engaged**
- **Better academic outcomes**
- **Less likely to skip school, misuse substances, have emotional distress, or be involved in negative behaviors**

<https://k12engagement.unl.edu/REVIEW%20OF%20EDUCATIONAL%20RESEARCH-2013-Thapa-357-85.pdf>



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**“If the relationships between administrators and teachers are trusting, generous, helpful, and cooperative, then the relationships between teachers and students, between students and students, and between teachers and parents are likely to be trusting, generous, helpful, and cooperative.”**

**-Roland S. Barth,  
Founding Director of the Principals' Center at  
Harvard University**

# Why Relationships Matter



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# What we mean by Relationships



**Relationships are the positive connections between students, adults and peers in the school setting that foster positive social interaction and establish a nurturing environment of trust and support.**





# Strategies



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# Critical Elements

- **Be Intentional**
  - **Authentic and Familiar**
  - **Consistent**
- **Encourage Feedback**
  - **Proactive and Reciprocal**
- **Be Creative and Flexible**



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- **Beginning of the year informational forms with individualized responses, as well as verify parents' emails and cell phone numbers.**
- **Weekly Wissinger Reports**
- **Bi-weekly Parent Check-in Forms (academic, as well as social/emotional)**
- **Request for support tickets, with the option for Google Meet, email explanation, or tutorial video sent**
- **Teacher's Desk - breakout room for support**
- **Birthday messages pre-scheduled for stream**
- **Pre-arranged student groups for marking periods, following pre-assessments, to allow for peer support**



# Craig

- **Self- care**
- **New language/changing language habits**
- **Goal setting (start small)**
- **Reward and then reward some more**
- **Make feedback meaningful and timely**
- **Involve the parents**



# Wrap Up

- **Reflect and Adjust**
- **Find the Fit that works for YOU**
- **Support community, and try out some strategies!**

"TEACHERS WHO PUT  
RELATIONSHIPS FIRST DON'T JUST  
HAVE STUDENTS FOR ONE YEAR;  
THEY HAVE STUDENTS WHO VIEW  
THEM AS 'THEIR' TEACHER  
FOR LIFE."

—Educator Justin Tarte

#T2T



# PLAYLIST IMAGE

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY: FORMING CONNECTIONS, COMMUNITY, AND AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS**

### **Read**

Read one or more articles

- [Stories from the Field: Building strong teacher-student relationships in the classroom](#) - Akira S. Gutierrez & Katie H. Buckley | Transforming Education
- [Stories from the Field: Fostering positive peer relationships](#) - DJ Cervantes & Akira S. Gutierrez | Transforming Education
- [How to Build Relationships Virtually: The Ultimate Guide for Teachers](#) - The Albert Team | ALBERT
- [6 Exercises to Get to Know Your Students Better—and Increase Their Engagement](#) - Nora Fleming | Edutopia

### **Watch**

Watch one or more videos

- [00:05:12] [Building Remote Learning Relationships](#) - Jaclyn Borowski & David Rauf / Education Week
- [00:03:40] [The Power of Relationships in Schools](#) - How Learning Happens / Edutopia
- [00:03:08] [Making Sure Each Child is Known](#) - Edutopia
- [00:02:31] [How to Strengthen Relationships with Older Students Online](#) - Edutopia
- [00:01:00] [60 Second Strategy: TUMS at the Door](#) - Edutopia

### **Listen**

Listen to one or more recording/podcast

- [00:23:49] [12 Ways to Connect with Kids and Prioritize Relationships while Teaching Remotely](#) - Angela Watson
- [00:20:32] [Building Relationships at All Levels](#) - NEA School Me
- [00:16:22] [Best Practices for Connecting with Students](#) - NEA School Me

### **Reflect**

Reflect on the following questions

- What are your strengths? What are you already doing that supports relationship building?
- What did you learn? What are opportunities to strength your practice?
- How will you transfer your new learning to your practice?



# Other Resources

- [The Borrowed Classroom Podcast](#)
- [Search Institute – Building Developmental Relationships During the COVID 19 Crisis](#)



# Upcoming Opportunities

- **February 1, 2021**
  - **Building Community: Teacher-Family Partnerships for Student Learning**





# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!



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