



TEACHER ACADEMY



**8+ ACTIVITIES TO
FOSTER ONLINE
CLASSROOM
CONNECTIONS**



Who We Are (5 Things)

1. Andy “Soy” Moeschberger
2. 14 years of high school teaching
3. Camp Director
4. Working From Home with a 2nd Grader & a brand new T-K student
5. Loves Bluegrass covers of pop music



1. Audrey “Sunshine” Monke
2. 36 years of camp directing/ownership
3. Podcaster/speaker/author (*Happy Campers*)
4. Most expensive sabbatical ever
5. Country!



Who are you? 5 Things.

1. Name
2. Experience
3. Current Job
4. Pandemic Situation
5. Favorite Music



Connection Comes First
at home,
at camp, &
at school.



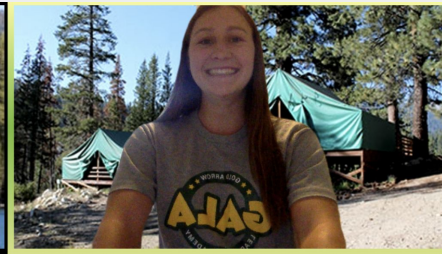


GALAMS

GOLD ARROW LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

GAL'ACSY

GOLD ARROW CAMP LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARACTER & STRENGTHS FOR YOUTH



What do kids need?

When children feel safe, seen (being known and understood), and soothed (being helped to feel calm and good again) most of the time (not perfectly), they develop security (where their brain wires to expect that people will see their needs and show up for them).

Tina Payne Bryson

What do kids need?

Safe - opportunities to connect with others & share answers & ideas.

Seen - noticed & accepted for who they are.

Soothed - classroom environment that is predictable and feels familiar.

9 Connection Activities





Classroom Code or Contract



Classroom Code

DAY 1:

What will make our class a welcoming, fun place to gather?

How do we want to treat each other?

Any catchy class mottos you can come up with based on what everyone's shared?

DAY 2:

Discussion of most popular ideas & options.

Poll to vote on final code.



Hot Seat



Hot Seat

1 person is in the “hot seat”.

Everyone else gets to type questions for a set amount of time (30 or 60 seconds).

You read the questions and they answer them.

The hot seat person can pass any question they prefer not to answer.

3.5 Things



5 Things

Each person will have a turn.

Each person lists any 5 things about yourself that you want to share.

The person popcorn chooses someone else when they finish their 5 things.



2 Truths 1 Lie



2 Truths 1 Lie

5 kids will go each time.

They each tell three facts about themselves. 2 are true and 1 is the lie. Everyone else has to guess which is true and which is a lie.

Responses:

- Fingers to the camera
- Chat “waterfall”
- Use the poll function

Activities 5-7: Brain Breaks in a Digital Classroom





High-Low-Buffalo



High-Low-Buffalo (or anything that rhymes with “low”)

Each person in your class shares what the best part of their day was (the high), the worst part (the low) and a random fact (the buffalo).

Perhaps let 5 people go each meeting - let them know ahead of time!

Allow kids to pass if they want to.

6. 20 Questions



20 Q (20 Questions)

Pick a student to think of a thing. Could be course related, maybe not.

Choose a student to be the reader of questions.

Choose a student to track how many questions have been asked.

Students type their questions into the chat and the reader asks the picker those questions. After 20 you either have guessed correctly or you have failed.



Scavenger Hunt



Scavenger Hunt

Turn your students loose in their house for common items.

Say an item, first kid back with it gets points (we used 5 for first, 4 for 2nd, so on for the top 5)

Examples of items:

A spoon, a piece of fruit, a shoe, tape, a remote (for anything), two mismatched socks.

Activities 8&9: Building a Classroom Culture



8. Theme Days



Theme Days / Questions

Every week can be a spirit week! Try Tropical or Tie Dye Tuesday or Jersday Thursday! Or just throw in a special day once in a while!

Have a chat question to kick off class each day (or just some days).

Throw It Away Thursday: If you could only keep one thing, and had to throw away all the rest of your possessions, what would you keep?

Fri-YAY: Why are you glad it's Friday?

Describe what makes you a great friend.



WOWs

Make giving compliments and shout outs part of your class culture!



WOW!

Who do you want to write a WOW to? *

Your answer

What do you want to tell them? *

Your answer

Who are you? *

Your answer

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



WOW!

TO: *Maggie Ellis*

Hey! I loved your wow! Thanks for being the great friend you are and having a good attitude (especially because your bday as last week! 🤪)

FROM: *Tess*



Be Part of GATA!



Join the Gold Arrow Teacher Academy

You're working from home. Spend your Starbucks money on our monthly teacher support & resources! For just \$9 per month you get:

- Access to a monthly live webinar like this one.
- Access to a weekly live teacher support & sharing group.
- Weekly email with a no or low-prep connection activity for your class.

School memberships are also available!

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Use discount code GATAYEARLY

Bonus for first 10 GATA members:

We'll set up a personalized WOW system for your class!

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Sample trainings for teachers

Professional Development:

- Creating A Positive, Connected School Culture
- Connecting with Your Students
- Coaching Kids to Better Friendships
- Positive Behavior Management Strategies
- Communication Skills for More Effective Teamwork
- Creating a Strengths-Focused School Culture

Sample assemblies & courses for students

Student Social-Emotional & Character Development

- Are You Ready for Adulthood?
- Be You! (Celebrating Strengths)
- Why it's Cool to be Kind
- How to Grow Your Grit
- How to Make & Keep Friends (Friendship Skills Course)



Questions AND Answers

