



ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER ONLINE CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Classroom Code or Motto

Brainstorm (verbally or in chat):

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?

Encourage them to keep thinking about mottos & come with more ideas to next class.

Prep before next class meeting:

Compile/group students' ideas & make sure important points are covered (respect, kindness, building each other up)

Class Discussion & Finalize Code/Motto:

Discussion of most popular ideas & options.

Use anonymous poll to vote on favorites.

Motto Ideas

If you can't beat the fear just do it scared

Work hard be kind

Figure it out

Just do it

Find the fun

We can do hard things

Look For the Good

Keep on keepin on



Hot Seat

1 person is in the "hot seat" (can be called "Star of the Day/Week" for younger students).

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.

Variation

Students type in (or say) compliments to the person in the "Hot Seat." This is a good activity for after students have had the chance to get to know each other.

Five Things

Prepare a list of 5 things you'd like each student to share. Have them all share in the chat box OR have volunteers who share out loud. Have 5 students share each day until everyone has shared.

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

Example Five Things Facts

Favorite food

Number of siblings

Favorite TV show

Favorite music genre

Dog or cat?

Hobby

Favorite sport to play or watch



Two Truths & A Lie

Five kids volunteer to go each time you play the game.

Each student shares three "facts" about themselves: two that are true and one that is a lie.

Everyone else has to guess which is true and which is a lie.

Response Options:

Fingers to the camera (Put up 1, 2, or 3 fingers to indicate which you think is the lie.)

Chat "waterfall" (see below)

Use the poll function (set up a poll with 1, 2, & 3 as answers)

The Waterfall

Can be used for this and other games, as well as when covering content.

Have students type in their response, and wait to enter until you countdown - "3, 2, 1, Enter!"

Then the responses pour in, like a waterfall.

High, Low, Buffalo (Daily Sharing)

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).

Options:

Have all kids share in the chat.

Have a few kids share aloud and the rest share in the chat.

Pro tip:

Use the same sharing for a long time, so kids get used to preparing what they'll share.



20 Questions

Pick a student to think of a thing (or send them a private message with what the thing is).

Can be course related or not.

Choose a student to be the reader of questions.

Choose another student to track how many questions have been asked (hold up fingers).

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 (as a team).

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.

Theme Days

Every week can be a spirit week!

Try Tropical or Tie Dye Tuesday or Jersey Thursday!

Or just throw in a special day once in a while!

Theme Ideas

Motivational Monday, Mindful Monday, Travel Tuesday, Would you rather Wednesday, Why Not Wednesday, Thankful Thursday, Brain Teaser Friday, Funky Friday (Best dance move)

Riddle of the day

If a school has uniform/dress code, it's great to do a virtual background for theme days! (so long as it's appropriate)



Question of the Day

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

Fun Question Ideas

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!

GOLD ARROW CAMP

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*



We've got MANY more ideas & activities to help you connect with your students and create a positive class & school culture!

Join GATA (Gold Arrow Camp Teacher Academy) for:

- Access to a monthly live webinar (recordings sent to all members).
- Access to a weekly live teacher support & sharing group.
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Individual teacher membership: \$9/month or \$75 for the whole school year.

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