

## Keep Students From Falling through the Cracks

Getting and Keeping Students Engaged

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### Breakout Session Questions:

1. What are some things you already have done successfully to get students engaged?
2. What can you do to change the vision of your class to our class whether you are teaching in the digital world or in the classroom?
3. What was the most helpful hint you learned in today's session for creating a classroom rich in affirmations, relationships, and engagement?
4. What learning contributed to giving kids the sense that the "good life" is right here in the digital environment or the classroom?
5. What was the most important learning for you about changing inflexible brains to flexible brains ready to work for you?
6. What tools are most valuable for believing that all kids will be successful in your classroom? Is this a shift in mindset for you?
7. What simple routines did you learn in your session that will allow you to change the brain chemistry and move kids forward?
8. What has changed in your thinking about the fact that you are the designer, engineer, and contractor in building classroom climate and engaging kids to enter the classroom or the digital classroom?

### Resources:

#### Changing Mind Body States

<https://www.jensenlearning.com/news/if-you-could-make-only-one-change-this-year/brain-based-teaching>

#### Boost Engagement

<https://www.jensenlearning.com/news/student-engagement-6-simple-steps/brain-based-teaching#more-1487>

Hooks and other creative ideas (feels more elementary, but absolutely works for secondary.

<https://youtu.be/bwZaWOoG2tw?t=4>

#### Teach Like A Pirate, Dave Burgess

<https://www.amazon.com/teach-like-pirate/s?k=teach+like+a+pirate>

#### Managing the Digital Classroom – Keeping Them Engaged

<https://youtu.be/-LybF2YIWn4?t=3>

#### Resources: Elementary focus

<https://resources.corwin.com/engagementbydesign>

10 fundamental of rewiring your brain!!

<https://reset.me/story/neuroplasticity-the-10-fundamentals-of-rewiring-your-brain>

## **KEEP KIDS FROM FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS: Things that change the brain body chemistry**

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

- CHANGE HOW YOU GREET
- CREATE A ME BAG – 1<sup>st</sup> week of school present. Include all types of fun personal items. Yes, even high school.
- LEARN NAMES QUICKLY- a must
- ONE AND DONE – 1<sup>st</sup> week, one thing, one favor, one novelty in the classroom, one student who needs you.
- TWO FOR TEN – 2 students for 10 days. Find the two the first week of school and for ten days find a way to give that extra minute to them.
- THREE IN THIRTY – three things about all students in 30 days.
- INTEREST SURVEY – focus on things that create happiness, use an index card so kids can add to it later.
- POWER MINUTE – tell about self, things they are good at doing, what they enjoy, favorite subjects, never over 4 minutes total. Great place for this is the Monday Meeting.
- GRATITUDE MOMENT
- MONDAY MEETING essential for community, emphasize storytelling, group check in, read the thermometer of how things are going
- FRIDAY CLOSURE essential for evaluating and creating interest. How did we do, what did you enjoy, what support do you need, what are you looking forward to? THE HOOK is essential, never leave a week without the kids anticipating the next interesting thing.

### **MOTIVATION**

- FIRST JOB OF DAY, moving kids from NO to YES. Brains are not ready to learn when they arrive. Make it MORE rewarding to sign in or show up than to not be there. Use the first 3-5 minutes to switch them from the inflexible brain to one that is ready to work. Use props, read a poem, add music, if you are still online this time MUST be something they look forward to and can't wait to see what you will do next.

- TRACK DAILY PROGRESS ONLINE OR USING A CHART
- ADD AFFIRMATIONS
- USE STUDENT AFFIRMATIONS OF THE DAY
- CHANGE STUDENT HAPPINESS SET POINT – happiness and optimism can be taught
- TEACH POSITIVE SELF TALK
- USE WORD NUTRIENTS – positive words that build the spirit. Let kids choose the daily word nutrient. Have them bring in words
- CHECK OWN MINDSET at the door, be ready for all learners and discover more about growth and fixed mindsets
- PREP YOUR OWN BRAIN BEFORE YOU GET ONLINE
- GIVE THEM A REASON TO BELIEVE – Be an ally first and a teacher second
- SET GOALS AND KEEP ADJUSTING – small goals, no large ones. Brains get overwhelmed and then quit.
- ALLOW CHOICE – allow more choice even when there is not one
- USE INVISIBLE MOTIVATORS – find simple ways to gets kids excited, sound buttons, novelty, surprises, be creative and find new things this summer
- FIND NEW WAYS TO SAY GOOD JOB – good job, nice try are really irrelevant. Praise effort and practice all the ways you can compliment and encourage learners not for talent but for hard work.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

- CONNECT EARLY
- CONNECT LATE
- USE HOOKS – Teach Like a Pirate, tons of ideas
- ONE MINUTE SUMMARY – a great way to review
- BUMP UP THE DOPAMINE – keep focused on that there are no unmotivated learners just unmotivated states. That is your arena and your challenge to get the brain excited and ready to learn and continually bump up the dopamine so the brain can stay with you
- TOOLS FOR THE ENERGY DROP – 2 minute relaxation, teaching breathing and focus, adding music, standing up, so many ideas, jot down your own
- ASSIGN REAL WORLD JOB DESCRIPTION TITLES
- USE ARGUMENT MAPPING - [www.rationaleonline.com](http://www.rationaleonline.com)

- ADD CURIOSITY AND CRITICAL THINKING
- USE ATTENTION GETTERS – Try to not use your voice at all to get attention. Use affirmations and other ways to move kids into groups, to get ready for a class, and do all of this without your voice. I enjoyed having a gong, a singing bowl, train whistle and bell.
- ADD MUSIC- music calms down, music energizes. Don't overuse it.
- PROJECT BASED LEARNING – this can be a huge bonus, however, you must pay close attention to kids who struggle, IEP kids, working memory deficit kids, kids who go one small step at a time. They will back off, not try, and be discouraged. Check off lists are helpful. Chunk things into small pieces. Plan for all students right up front.