**Strategies to Build Relationships with Students**

**Purpose**: Positive relationships between educators and students help strengthen the environment for learning and enhance school climate. Educators can implement the strategies below to help build relationships with their students.

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| **Provide Opportunities for Student Involvement** |
| * Student involvement allows for students to use their voices and make decisions. * To use this strategy, have students vote on a class activity like an icebreaker or circle topic to try at the beginning of the week. |
| **Use 2x10 Check-In Strategy** |
| * 2x10 is a strategy that facilitates daily check-ins with a specific student. * To use this strategy, spend two minutes with a student talking about non-academic topics for 10 consecutive days. |
| **Create a Comment Box** |
| * Comment boxes encourage students to share their thoughts, feelings, or suggestions. * To use this strategy, designate a location for students to leave their notes (e.g., homework basket, physical box, electronic platform), and respond by following up with the individual student or making the suggested change. |
| **Greet Students Using the 3Hs** |
| * Handshakes, high fives, and hellos are greetings to use when students enter the class. * To use this strategy, ask students to choose their own special greeting to use daily with the teacher (e.g., special wave, hand signal, motion). |
| **Write Notes of Appreciation** |
| * Notes of appreciation help teachers intentionally write positive notes to students through emails, postcards, or physical papers. * To use this strategy, start by writing notes to students who may not seem as connected to others, and then eventually write notes to additional students. |
| **Find Common Interests** |
| * Common interests provide a natural way to connect with students. * To use this strategy, have students take turns sharing some of their interests or favorite activities, and then find ways to incorporate those interests (e.g., play the radio version of students' favorite songs as background music during transitions or independent work time). |

**Acknowledgements**

This resource is adapted from:

Gulbrandson, K., O’Connor, E., & Skolasinki, S. (n.d.). *Five ways to build relationships that foster positive culture.* <https://wisconsinrticenter.org/>