Boosting Motivation and Engagement

Kick off the school year with these simple strategies!

M — **Mindset Shift to Connections and Growth**
- Invest time to build your classroom community with Weekly Community Building Activities.
- Customize learning experience to support growth and success.
- Acknowledge even small accomplishments to promote a growth mindset.

O — **Opportunities to Respond**
- Increase student engagement through: thumbs up/down/sideways; response cards; name pickers; chat box; and break out rooms.
- Infuse regular check-ins/check-outs within you daily routines.
- Utilize participation and discussion strategies.

T — **Teach What is Relevant**
- Provide clear learning objectives.
- Provide fun, engaging, relevant learning activities (see pg. 28-29).
- Incorporate technology for developmentally/ culturally/ linguistically appropriate instruction.

I — **Inspire Risk-Taking with High Expectations and Meaningful Goals**
- Believe in your students' potential to grow.
- Set collective and individual goals that are rigorous yet attainable.
- Create Virtual Classroom Expectations rooted in digital citizenship.

V — **Value and Validate Multiple Perspective**
- Allow students to voice their perspectives within the 7 Core Circle Guidelines.
- Acknowledge diverse perspectives into learning activities.
- Listen with your heart using compassionate listening.

A — **Assess Interests, Strengths, and Limitations**
- Ask student about their interests and hobbies.
- Connect community building activities to Social Emotional Learning.
- Survey interests (All About Me, 10 Things I Want You to Know About Me, My Personal Website)

T — **Transform Leadership with Choice Making and Gradual Release**
- Offer choices to empower students to take control of their learning.
- Use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model (I do, We do, You do).
- Infuse opportunities for student-led mini-lessons/engage in cooperative learning groups.

E — **Extrinsic and Intrinsic Reinforcement**
- Use 4:1 positive to corrective feedback to build mutual trust, respect, and foster self-efficacy.
- Customize incentives based on student interest.
- Celebrate student growth and success (individual and group).

Looking for more ways to boost student engagement and motivation?

Choice

- **Shape Draw-** Say/draw a shape (circle, triangle, diamond, etc.) Everyone draws something with that shape that represents what you're studying. If studying World War II , a triangle can become part of a map. If studying fractions, a triangle can become a piece of a pie.

- **Noun Race-** Look around your space and choose something that starts with the letter ___. Name as many nouns as you can that begin with that letter.

- **Vowel Out-** Choose and list as many (animals, vegetables, flowers, cars, sandwiches, etc.) as you can that do not start with vowels.

- **Show and Tell-** Student gets to show and tell about a topic/item of interest.

- **You Got Jokes-** Allow the student to share an appropriate joke with the class.

- **Dance Party-** Students can participate in a class dance party.

- **Story Time-** Student chooses which story will be read to the class.

- **Even/Odd-** Students choose whether they complete even or odd numbers of an assignment.

- **Brain Break-** Student chooses which brain break the class will use.

- **Madlibs-** Have students pick the words for a Madlib to share with the class.

- **Positive Quote of the day-** Have student select and share out a positive quote for the day.

- **Crazy Hair-** Students wear their craziest hairstyle of their choice in class.

Movement

- **Virtual Class DJ-** Have a student select songs ("clean" versions only) for a virtual class dance party.

- **Move It to Music-** Put music on so everyone can move (they can move on screen or turn camera off).

- **Go Noodle-** Use a Go Noodle activity for a class movement break (teacher/student selected).

- **March On-** Have students march in place. When someone says stop, check what foot you are on (if left foot- do 3 jumping jacks. If right foot-bark like a dog (vary as desired).

All About Me

- **[Padlet](#) Wall-** Allow students to display their interests/work through Padlet.

- **Talent Show-** Have students share out their unique talents with the class.

- **Picture It!-** Pretend like you are hammering a nail into the wall to hang a picture. Each person can say (or put in the chat) what picture they hung.

- **If I Were a Cartoon-** Pick a cartoon character that describes you – share it.

- **Name Crosswords-** Make a crossword with your name.

- **Name Acrostic-** Make an acrostic poem with your name.

- **Music Playlist-** Students create a playlist of their favorite songs to share with the class ("clean" versions only).

Digital

- **Virtual Background/Filter-** Student chooses teacher's virtual background/filter for class.

- **Virtual Field Trip-** Student choose from a selection of virtual fieldtrips for the class.

- **Flipgrid It-** Students can create a Flipgrid video to share about a topic of interest.

- **Virtual Scavenger Hunt-** Use a virtual scavenger hunt to have students find and share.

- **Virtual Greeting-** Use the virtual whiteboard to have students create a shared greeting.

- **Name Picker-** Use a digital name picker to increase equitable opportunities to respond.