




# 10 TIPS TO BOOST STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## A back-to-school guide to increase student participation in the art room.





The blank canvas of a new school year awaits! This is an ideal time to connect with students and let their creativity soar. The post-pandemic classroom is presenting some unique challenges, so we want to empower you with strategies and ideas that will help you create a supportive and engaging environment for your students. With links to free  **Magazine** articles and resources available with subscriptions to  **FLEX Curriculum** and  **PRO Learning**, this handout will give YOU revitalized tips and tricks to motivate students and optimize learning in the art room from day one.

## 1 CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

### Finding the right “vibe.”

The art room can be a “safe space” for many students. Adding lamp lighting, alternative seating, or soft music upon student entry are just a few ways to create a welcoming environment for you and your students.

### LINKS




-  [How to Feel Happier in Your Classroom Space](#)
-  [Creating a Welcoming Environment](#)
-  [27 Ways to Design an Inviting, Functional, and Flexible Art Room](#)
-  [Rethinking Art Room Space](#)
  - 8 Ways to Organize Supplies for Maximum Student Independence

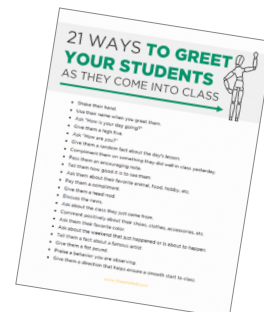
## 2 GREET STUDENTS AT THE DOOR

### Take the first step to building relationships.

By greeting students with a smile at the door, teachers can set the tone for the classroom ahead. Greeting students at the door can make them feel seen. Sometimes smiling “Hello!” is the first positive interaction they may have had that day.

### LINKS

-  [Why Meeting Your Kids at the Door Is So Important](#)
-  [Strategies for Student Engagement](#)
-  [Managing the Classroom](#)
  - 21 Ways to Greet Your Students



### 3 ENGAGEMENT UPON ENTRY (AND EXIT)

**Don't give them a chance to be disengaged!**

Preparing an activity or bell ringer for students as they enter and/or exit the classroom keeps students engaged throughout the entirety of the class. This proactive approach discourages students from using their phones or catching up with their friends.



#### LINKS

- ▶ 8 Warm-Up Activities To Support Classroom Management and Calm Starts to Class
- ▶ How Can I Level Up Warm-Up and Closure Activities?
- ▶ The Ultimate List of Secondary Art Room Bellringers
- ▶ 3 Successful Bell Ringers for Your Classroom
- ▶ 100 Silly Drawing Prompts to Engage Your Students
- ▶ Strategies for Student Engagement
  - Resources: Classroom Engagement Reflection Guide
  - Engaging Lessons Planner

### 4 ESTABLISH ROUTINES AND EXPECTATIONS

**Consistent expectations and routines can smooth transitions.**

Having a routine that students know they will need to follow encourages participation. Instead of using 1-2 minutes to settle students down or capture their attention, provide a structured routine to ease the transition into the lesson.



#### LINKS

- ▶ Create Your Classroom Rules WITH Your Students for a Powerful Start to the Year
- ▶ How to Start a Creativity Routine with Your Students
- ▶ 8 Routines for a Successful School Year
- ▶ Routines to Teach the First Week
- ▶ The Most Important Routines You Can Teach at the Elementary Level
- ▶ First Day Activities
  - First Week Routines
  - Art Room Think Sheet

### 5 REASSESS OR BREAK YOUR ROUTINE

**It's never too late to make adjustments.**

Once routines have been established, it's important to assess and reassess if a system is working. While consistent structure is important, don't be afraid to make adjustments or try something new! Plus, breaking up daily routines can spark interest and engagement when students are in a rut.



#### LINKS

- ▶ Cleaning Up your Cleaning Routine
- ▶ 3 Steps to Fix a Failing Routine
- ▶ 4 Simple Tricks to Improve Your Cleanup Routine
- ▶ 13 Classroom Management Games Your Students Will Want to Play
- ▶ Teaching Routines and Procedures
  - What To Do When You Need To Start Over
  - 15 Questions To Ask Yourself About Classroom Management







## 6 BRING THE ENERGY

**“If you can be that good, positive energy, you can eradicate negativity.”**  
- Ron Clark

Passion is contagious! Students are more likely to mirror the energy that you bring to the class. Enthusiasm about a lesson or activity will likely increase student engagement.

### LINKS







-  [Ron Clark: The Power of Passion and Engagement](#)
-  [Staying Passionate About Your Teaching](#)
-  [Curbing Art Teacher Burnout](#)
  - [How to Advocate for Yourself in 4 Steps](#)
  - [10 Ways to Reconnect with Your Inner Artist](#)
-  [Art Games](#)
  - [Beginner](#)
  - [Intermediate](#)
  - [Advanced](#)

## 7 TIE IN RELEVANCY

**Understanding the reason for a lesson can make a world of difference.**

A common misconception in the art room is that art is not relevant to the real world. Tying in relevancy to your lesson or methods in the classroom can guide students to understanding the “why.”

### LINKS






-  [How to Integrate Real-World Connections and Applications in the Art Room](#)
-  [10 Real-World Ways Art Class Can Impact Your Life](#)
-  [Artists and Athletes: Are They Really That Different?](#)
-  [10 YouTube Art Videos to Share With Your High School Students](#)
-  [Readying Students for College and Careers](#)
  - [60 Visual Arts Careers](#)
  - [Art Career Research](#)
-  [60 Visual Art Careers](#)

## 8 TAKE IT OUTSIDE

**A breath of fresh air can be refreshing.**

Utilizing the great outdoors for lessons can provide a change of scenery for not only students but you too! Capitalize on the good weather days to bring the class outside to create in nature or even create with nature.

### LINKS

-  [13 Art Ideas That Are Perfect to Take Outdoors](#)
-  [7 Exciting Outdoor Lessons You Can Use to Take Art Out Into Nature](#)
-  [Two Engaging Outdoor Activities to Do With Your Students](#)
-  [Creating Art Outside](#)
  - [Outdoor Art Safety Checklist](#)
  - [Tips for Painting Outdoors](#)
-  [Outdoor Observation](#)

## 9 BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS

**Students are more likely to listen to someone they trust and respect.**

One of the top classroom management strategies is building relationships with your students. Getting to know them as individuals can increase your effectiveness as a teacher and decrease the possibility of misbehavior.



### LINKS

- ▶ 9 Strategies to Build Rapport With Your Students From the Start
- ▶ 6 Ways to Build Great Relationships With Students in the Art Room
- ▶ 5 Strategies for Working With High School Students Who Hate Art
- ▶ 5 Effective Tips for Working With Stubborn Students
- ▶ How to Reach Uninterested Elementary Students in the Art Room
- ▶ 5 Ways to Build Relationships With At-Risk Students
- ▶ 11 Ways to Build Personal Relationships When You See 500 Students a Week
- ▶ Building Positive Relationships
  - Resource: All About Me Interest Inventory
  - 20 Examples of Process Praise
- ▶ Supporting Students Experiencing Trauma
  - Verbal Strategies for Communicating With Students

## 10 FOSTER COLLABORATION

**Build a positive classroom culture.**

The importance of collaboration has never been more important. Fostering collaboration in the classroom is the first step to building a positive culture and increasing student motivation, retention, and self-confidence.



### LINKS

- ▶ 3 Awesome Art Challenges for the First Week of School
- ▶ How to Help Your Students Learn to Talk to Each Other Again
- ▶ 4 Ways to Incorporate Collaboration in the Classroom
- ▶ 6 Activities to Get Your Students Excited to Talk About Art
- ▶ Why You Should Incorporate Art Challenges in Your Room This School Year
- ▶ Finding Success with Collaboration at the Elementary Level
  - Collaborative Project: Create an Elements of Art Nonobjective Sculpture
  - Collaborative Artist Statement
- ▶ Beginner: Shape Collaborative Mural or Collaborative Cardboard Aquarium Intermediate: Collaborative Quilt

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