

Community Led Enrichment

Tips for your Toolbox

Best Ways to Ensure Students Remain Engaged:

- *Build relationships and get to know your group*
 - Students tend to put forth greater effort when they trust that the adult with which they are working is someone that they know and can trust
- *Make the activities hands on and discussion based*
 - Lecturing should play a VERY SMALL part in your time. Instead make sure that you give students time to talk to one another.
 - Try to have something that the students are actively doing each week. They learn best when they are active participants.
- *Remember that you are still the teacher of the group*
 - Establish expectations for discussion and participation.
 - The students you have are most likely going to be highly engaged, but that does not mean that they might not need some additional explanation and help sometimes.
 - Challenge the students, but do so in a way that is also supportive!

Tips for Managing Behaviors:

- *When students are not engaging with the material*
 - Try the strategies from above!
 - Ask the student(s) as a group or individually what they are hoping to get out of the group and/or how you can help them enjoy the activity more.
 - Ask an instructional coach or teacher to brainstorm some ideas together.
- *When students are talking to each other, but they should be listening to you*
 - Remind them of the expectation and then wait for them to give you their attention before moving on with the activity/discussion.
 - Ask them to answer a question to bring them back into the conversation.
 - Talk to them quickly and respectfully at the end of the group to remind them about the expectations.
- *When students are engaged, but shouting out of turn*
 - And it is productive, but dominating the conversation...
 - Request that students raise their hand to give other students a chance to answer.
 - And it is unproductive...
 - Ask them to answer a question to bring them back into the conversation.
 - Talk to them quickly and respectfully at the end of the group to remind them about the expectations.
 - Quietly and kindly remind them to stay on topic.
 - And you've tried the strategies from above...
 - Tell an instructional coach or teacher so they can address it with the student(s)

Always Remember:

- They are middle school students and sometimes they will need to be reminded of expectations.
- They all want to succeed, but sometimes it takes an extra encouraging word or push from an adult like you.

- There are plenty of people here to help if you need it!