Fort Hayes Opus

Volume 4 Issue 8 April 2022 Engaged

The mission of Fort Hayes is to create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning by blending the arts, academic and





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OSU FEEP student Karah King asked for help with a service project and Ms. Rhein jumped on board. A few students from Ellis's study hall and from Rhein's classes plus a handful of friends joined forces over lunch. The busy bunch made cards and 14 spring themed baskets for residents at Ohio Living Westminster Thurber nursing home.

Pictured above are students Amandou Agne and Chloe Smith with King to hand deliver the baskets. Spreading joy was as easy as a few trips to Dollar Tree and student interest in brightening up someone else's day.

Engaging Students Every Day: 7 Strategies for Connecting in the Classroom

Michael Roberto

Here are seven strategies to help you connect and engage with students in every class you teach, whether that's in person, online or in hybrid classrooms.

1. Really get to know your students

Research shows that when you build relationships with students by getting to know them and allowing them to know you, they will learn more. Through knowledge of their backgrounds and interests, you'll be better equipped to connect class content to their lives. You'll enjoy teaching more as well. To me, engagement is also about showing students that you care.

2. Establish Expectations for Participation

Students are concerned about what kind of impression they'll have on their teachers, and often this uncertainty makes them hesitant to speak up in class. This self-censoring is an obstacle to collective learning and the exchange of ideas. To combat this, create a climate of psychological safety within your classroom where students know that it's okay to speak up. And make participation a requirement from the start. Here are some ways to encourage participation in your classes:

- <u>Call on students</u>: but pay attention when extra support is needed. To get broad participation, I cold call students. They all know ahead of time that I may call on them at any time. For students who are particularly reticent or anxious about that possibility, I might do a warm call and let them know...

Career Center Students show Appreciation for Transportation



Students within the Graphic Design & Printing Program designed a special "This Is How We Roll" t-shirt and held a special event to thank and acknowledge 600 Columbus City School bus drivers.

As part of a class challenge, students were tasked with coming up with a t-shirt design for the Transportation Department. Jonny Sims, winner of the challenge, said that it took less than a day to come up with his winning design as he saw this more than a challenge, but a chance to say thank you to the bus drivers. He also stated, "The shirts, I think, are a great gesture to show them that they are important. I think they deserve a whole lot because they do have one of the hardest jobs."

"This Is How We Roll" t-shirts were gifted to all CCS bus drivers at all five bus compound locations.

Watch the video here: <u>WATCH: CCS STUDENTS SHOW</u> <u>APPRECIATION FOR TRANSPORTATION</u> <u>TEAM</u>

Engaging Students..." continued

... ahead of time so they have some warning. I also emphasize that in my class there's no downside to wrong answers. If I call on you and you're stuck, I'll ask your classmates to come to your aid. "Help them out" is a phrase I use all the time, and students appreciate it. So there's no downside to wrong answers unless you clearly didn't do the work before class.

3. Answer the "So What?" in Everything you Do - and Say

Engagement also happens when the work we give students is personally meaningful. Why does what we're talking about matter? What are the implications for students' lives? Based on your knowledge of your students, how does the topic relate to their next classes, to their careers, to whatever they're passionate about outside the classroom?

Articulating the "So what?" before you hand out an assignment – and including compelling examples that reinforce the subject's relevance – motivates students to do the work well, not just for the grade. For instance, I asked students recently to consider the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. I posed the question, "Why didn't the world take the threat more seriously in late 2019 and early 2020?" We had a lively discussion. Students told stories of how they felt when reading news about the virus as the first cases began to emerge. Then, I assigned a multimedia case study about the Columbia space shuttle accident. I explained that the case would shed light on the crucial question of why humans downplay ambiguous or weak signals of an emerging threat. By relating the case to the headlines of today and their personal experience with the pandemic, I motivated the students to immerse themselves in the Columbia multimedia material.

4. Create Meaningful Pre-Work

Students will also come to class more prepared to contribute if you set the stage with effective pre-work activities. Reading assignments alone aren't sufficient, and grades are not enough to motivate. We have to broaden our perspective and think creatively about what pre-work is. The tasks we give students should answer the "So what?" question and require them to grapple with the material in some way, so they're not blank slates when they get to class. It's all about preparing them to engage. Articulating the "So what?" before you hand out an assignment – and including compelling examples that reinforce the subject's relevance – motivates students to do the work well, not just for the grade."

5. Make Learning Experiences Active and Varied

Pacing your class activities goes hand in hand with incorporating multiple approaches to learning. At one time, I taught almost strictly by the case method. While case studies require much more active learning than a lecture does, they quickly become redundant if used every day. Pedagogical variety, with an emphasis on active learning, is important within individual class sessions and throughout the semester.

"...Strategies for Connecting in the Classroom" conclusion

Some of the varied learning experiences I've used include working in teams to solve puzzles; running simulations, such as a two-hour virtual climb of Mount Everest; and playing the competitive Ball Point game as an example of iterative problem-solving.

6. Pace Your Lessons Well

Studies show that class activities should be changed every 7 to 10 minutes in order to keep students' attention. It's also a good idea to avoid long lectures, which are a very passive classroom activity, and instead choose activities that involve students. Verbal discussions and Q&As offer some interaction and a break from lecturing, but that doesn't quite equal engagement. Here are a few ways to break up lectures by shifting the topic or mode of instruction:

- <u>Short videos</u>: Interject a related video clip and get students to respond to it.

- <u>Polling apps</u>: Every so often poll the class to get students' quick responses to a particular question or topic. With several apps available, you can choose one that's best suited to your classroom setup (Poll Everywhere lets student vote or respond using their smartphones and for online classes, Zoom has its own polling software).

- <u>Group work and sharing</u>: Engage students in teamwork. Have them complete a task in in teams, then share what they've done with the rest of the class. This can be done in breakout rooms when online, but if in person, grouping teams together and getting students up to write things on the board also provides them a chance to move around during the class session.

7. Show Students that You Care

Part of maintaining the rapport and engagement you've fostered from day one is celebrating student successes – even those beyond your classroom. I follow campus news and events and I connect with students on social media. When I read about their achievements, such as landing a new job or internship, I'll send a little note of congratulations. And they are always grateful for it. To me, engagement is also about showing the students you care.

An Engaged Student is an Inspired One

Many of us have heard the saying, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire". In my teaching, I am to do much more than transmit a small body of knowledge over the course of a semester. For me, engaging students means sparking their intellectual curiosity, encouraging them to ask thought-provoking questions, and motivating them to tackle challenging problems. If we engage them, we can inspire them to excel in our classrooms and become productive lifelong learners.

School Calendar

Thursday, April 14

Principal Show Performing Arts Auditorium 11:00 am 30-minute early release to begin Spring Break

Friday, April 14 through Friday, April 22 Spring Break

> Monday, April 25 Classes resume

Wednesday, April 27

OST Testing (Algebra 1 and Geometry)

Thursday, April 28

Improv Workshop 2:45-5:00 pm FH Media Arts Fest 5:00-8:00 pm

Friday, April 29

National Honor Society Dance-a-thon 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 5

Improv Workshop 2:45-5:00 pm High School Choir Concert 7:00 pm

> **Friday, May 6** High School Science Fair

Thursday, May 12

Improv Workshop 2:45-5:00 pm High School Instrumental Music Concert 7:00 pm



"CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A BOYOYOING!"

Volume 4 Issue 8 April 2022 Engaged



BE EXCELLENT. BE THE EXCEPTION. BE FORT HAYES.

Focused	Hardworking	
Organized	Artistic	
R esourceful	Yearlong	
Teachable	Engaged	

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WE WORK HERE!

CCS is making students **READY FOR SUCCESS**

Parent Engagement **Culture and Climate**



Fort Haves Air Force Junior ROTC first allfemale color guard

Columbus City Schools 2021-2022 School Calendar

Dates to Re	member		
Aug 23 - 25	Staff Professional Development		
26-Aug	First Day for Students		
6-Sep	Labor Day (schools closed)		
15-Oct	Professional Development Day		
26-Oct	End of Q1		
27-Oct	Records Day		
2-Nov	Professional Development Day		
24-Nov	Parent Teacher Conf. Comp Day		
Nov 25 - 26	Thanksgiving Recess		
17-Dec	30 Min Early Release (Holiday)		
Dec 20 - 31	Winter Break		
14-Jan	End of Q2		
17-Jan	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
18-Jan	Professional Development Day		
19-Jan	Records Day		
2-Feb	Professional Development Day		
21-Feb	Parent Teacher Conf. Comp Day		
9-Mar	Professional Development Day		
22-Mar	End of Q3		
23-Mar	Records Day		
14-Apr	30 Min Early Release (Holida)		
Apr 15 - 22	Spring Break WE A	REF	IERE - is
30-May	Memorial Day (schools closed		
2-Jun	Last Day for Students		
3-Jun	Records Day		

Volume 4 Issue 8 April 2022 Engaged



Parent Page

Parent Portal Info:

Please, update and verify your: Contact Email Contact Phone number

The link to the Parent Portal is: https://www.ccsoh.us/ParentPortal.aspx

Forgot Your Password? Email: parentportalaccess@columbus.k12.oh.us

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

If your student will be in High School for the 22-23 school year and is eligible for yellow bus transportation services, you MUST OPT-IN for transportation services.

All general education high school students have been defaulted to <u>not</u> ride the bus. In order to OPT-IN you must long into your Parent Portal to make your selection. **The deadline is April 22nd at midnight**.

If at any time during the 22-23 school year your student needs a seat on a yellow bus, OPT-IN through the parent portal. It may take up to 10 business days to get your student routed.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

If your student needs a **Chromebook or Hotspot** please contact the school and we will set up a time for pick up.

Please contact the CCS Help Desk if the student or parent has any General Access Questions, Log in issues or Account Questions

Columbus City Schools Helpdesk: 614-365-8425

If your child has a **broken** Chromebook, Hotspot or broken/lost Power Adapter, please contact the school to schedule a time for an exchange.

Remember that students are supposed to bring their Chromebooks to school (fully charged) to use in classes throughout the day.

https://www.ccsoh.us/FortHayesHS

https://www.ccsoh.us/FortHayesCC

