



STAPLE #M5 | Engage Students in Community Meetings

Engaging Students in Community Meetings is an excellent way for everyone to greet each other, share stories, and build empathy.

SETUP

1. Set up the room to reflect an open, barrier-free space for all students to see each other.
 - Put chairs in a circle or have students sit in a circle.
 - Remove any distractions (extra desks, chairs, papers, etc.) while in the circle.
 - Set any items used during the meeting in each student's place.
2. Develop norms and procedures for the meetings. (Sample Below)
 - Encourage everyone to participate.
 - Everyone must respect each other.
 - Only the person with the "mic" can speak.
3. Create two versions of community meetings:
 - Weekend Edition
 - Time – 10 to 15 minutes
 - Task – students can share their experiences from the weekend
 - Daily Edition
 - Time – 3 to 5 minutes
 - Task – students can share their readiness to learn or go over a character trait for the day/week.
4. Poll students to select topics that interest them to keep the Community Meetings relevant.

ACTIVITY

1. Begin the Community Meeting at the start of each period or morning.
2. Welcome Students
 - Teacher Comments – "Good morning/afternoon, students. Let us start our community (or unique name). Who would like to start first?"
3. Start with the topic of the day/week.

CLOSING

1. Final Steps:
 - Close the meeting with a positive statement everyone can recite.
 - For example: school vision, PBIS mission, class mission, etc.
 - Make a note of each student's participation and support students who need additional help sharing during the meetings.
2. Follow-Up:
 - Get frequent feedback from students to improve the community meetings over time.