



ENGAGING MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND REAL PROJECTS (AND A BIT OF INSANITY!)



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WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

- ◉ Review nine keys to engaging and enthusiastic learning
- ◉ Discuss what 'teach, help, fun' looks like on a daily basis
- ◉ Inspire  to do  things with your students!



- ◉ It's the 'who,' not the 'what!'
- ◉ Engage FIRST!
- ◉ Make it physical, make it verbal!



- ◉ “At my old school, teachers would tell me, ‘Good morning,’ but I knew it didn’t mean anything. Here at FVA, teachers know ME, things I do and like. It’s because they spend time with me, and ask me actual questions. No fluff here!” - CC, 10th grade
- ◉ Think of ONE student, and ONE question you can ask them when you see them in class...



FUNCTIONING SCHEDULE



- ◉ Time to learn...

- How much instructional time do you have?
Is it broken up with activities or chances for students to demonstrate that learning has taken place?

- ◉ Time to help...

- Do you have time built in to sit with students and work with them?
Have you provided examples of work for them to see the standard of work you are looking for?

- ◉ Time to have fun...**BE WITH THEM!**

- Clubs- Theater Club, Football Club, FVA Ninja Warrior, Creative Writing
- Close your computer, look them in the eye, and spend time with them!



English

Genealogy
#SomebodyElsie
Create your own
Dystopian Society

Math

Game On!
Architecture iLearning



History

Culture vs. Individuality
Black History Month
Weekly Journals

Science

Build Your Own Rocket
Mythbusters



COMMUNITY IN SCHOOL

- Care and Share Community Garden
- Black History Month Exhibit Night
- Social Media
- Invite parents to classes
 - Parents are your best advertisement!



DIGITAL TOOLS FOR 21ST CENTURY

- ◉ Get away from PowerPoint and Word!
- ◉ Check out our Digital Tool Box!
- ◉ Voki, Glogster, Scribblemaps, YouTube
- ◉ Outside funding- Google 'school project funding'



CHARACTER

“The function of education is to teach one
To think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence
Plus character- that is the goal of true education.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Teach the small things- handshake, eye contact, conversation.

How to genuinely encourage another!

Engage and Launch- These are the keys!

- Engage- start with an activity that makes them stop, think, and respond.
- Launch- end with a challenge, question, or inspiration





“What are you doing?”
“What should you be doing?”

We don't tell kids what to do- they know!

Kid + Hormones = OUR STUDENTS!
Teach them to be 'human!'



USE THE FORCE!

- ◉ Ask questions of other teachers, especially those in other content areas!
- ◉ Buck Institute for Education- BEST SOURCE OUT THERE!
- ◉ Google it!



INPUT AND OUTPUT

◉ Who are your input...

- Friends?
- Family members?
- Coworkers?
- Activities?

◉ What is your output...

- Family?
- Friends?
- Students?
- Activities?



YOU ARE CALLED!

You are called...

- teach the unteachable!
- say 'hi' to the awkward kid!
- eat lunch with the loner!
- listen to the crying girl...AGAIN!
- challenge the bored!
- know EVERY student's name!
- change the world!



What one change can you make in your classroom?



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