




1st 6 weeks back in school

Transitioning
from e-learning
to in-person learning



Dear Teachers,

This year is such a new experience and such a tremendous challenge. We want to provide you with all the support we can, but first, we want to acknowledge what COVID has impacted and how that has changed your classrooms. We also want to provide you ways you can still accomplish some of those routines you might miss most, just a little differently.

As we think about the 1st six weeks back to school, we want to be mindful of your changing classrooms and help you think through ways you can maintain some sense of normalcy. On each page you will find an overall Responsive Classroom structure, then a chart naming the impacts of COVID as well as things you can still do and ideas to make those happen.

If you have any questions, comments, or needs, we are here for you. Please reach out and we can help you think through how RC fits into this COVID world. Also on our website is a growing collection of resources, webinars, and documents to help you during this time.

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Interactive Modeling

Remember that students have not been in a classroom, or around other classmates, since March. It's important to set your classroom/students up for success by modeling all procedures, activities, and student interactions.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<p>Procedures to model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask wearing• Hand washing• Social distancing• The way we interact with one another• The way we meet together	<p>Use the steps of interactive modeling to set students up for success</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Say what you will model and why.</i>2. <i>Model the behavior.</i>3. <i>Ask students what they noticed.</i>4. <i>Invite one or more students to try.</i>5. <i>Again, ask students what they noticed.</i>6. <i>Have all students practice.</i>7. <i>Provide feedback.</i> <p>Allow students time and space to practice all procedures, rules, and interactions</p>

Links:

[Interactive Modeling Intro & Planning Guide](#)

[Using Interactive Modeling: Create Consistency in a Changing Situation](#)

Classroom Organization

When setting up a classroom we are making a calm and inviting place for students to come, feel welcome and make their classroom their home.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to sit in groups• Group meeting areas• Using comfy seats• Sharing supplies	<p>Make space on the wall for student art and work</p> <p>Make the classroom feel calm by making sure materials and supplies are organized and put away neatly</p> <p>Allow students to make and decorate their own name tags</p> <p>Think through flow and movement of students within the classroom</p> <p>Allow choice for seating—this could be in the chair or on the floor using their chair as a table</p> <p>Use visual cues and reminders to empower students, such as a voice level chart, or pictures of students acting out class rules/procedures</p>

Links:

[Classroom Organization Ideas - 1](#)

Arrival

Getting arrival right helps students get a good start to their day.
This year will look different and teaching and modeling patience may be necessary!

COVID impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ability for kids to meet in a general location such as the gym or cafeteria• Having food in classrooms• Students arriving slowly• Monitoring how many students are at lockers at one time	<p>Have a meaningful morning message with an interactive piece</p> <p>Show students what this time looks like and sounds like and allow for practice</p> <p>Have a morning greeting as students arrive—a chant, saying, distance high five, dance party, or secret distance handshake</p> <p>Provide meaningful activities for students to work on while other students are arriving and finishing breakfast—a read-to-self activity, journaling, previewing objects/pictures for an upcoming activity or current unit, undertaking a project of interest</p>

Hopes and Dreams - Rule Creation

Hopes and Dreams and Rule Creation are especially important this year.

There is a lot to adjust to life during this pandemic, including many new types of procedures. Hopes and Dreams and Rule Creation offer students the consistency and stability they need.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hopes and Dreams might look different• Rules might sound different	<p>Make hopes and dreams and rules for our classrooms</p> <p>Revisit the ones we made during e-learning and make new ones/change the old ones</p> <p>Make hopes and dreams for academic and social emotional needs</p> <p>Create rules together using the kids' language and positive wording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use envisioning language starters such as: What needs to happen so everyone can _____? What will make your _____ successful?• Allow for different types of rules this year, i.e., 5 minutes of chat time or wearing pictures of them maskless (Listen to what they missed/need from this time away and as a result of the pandemic)• Decorate and sign them as a class

Links:

[Hopes and Dreams into Rules, with books for read-alouds- 1](#)

Morning Meeting

Morning Meeting is still a valuable resource. It builds community and helps everyone get to know each other and have fun together! Each of its sections—greeting, sharing, inclusive group activity, and the Interactive Morning Message—are still as important as ever.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ability to meet in a small tight circle• How sharing will look• How the activity will look	<p>Find a way to meet—outside before entering school, in a larger circle around the outside of the room, while standing at students' desks</p> <p>Have a morning message—it's still needed to provide consistency and structure to the day</p> <p>Continue to share with one another—think of questions about life before COVID, things that were missed, or ways students are feeling about change</p> <p>Find ways for students to make connections to each other—participate in an activity that works from a distance, check the energizer e-book sent earlier</p>

Links:

[Morning Meeting Intro & Weekly Planning Guide - 1](#)

[Morning Meeting Download - 1st 10 days by grade](#)

[Morning Meeting Questions- considering COVID](#)

Lunch

Lunch is a time for students to chat with friends they haven't seen in a long time. This is a time for students to meet their needs of belonging and fun.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eating together in the cafeteria• Having food in classrooms• Socializing with friends	<p>Model what lunch will look like and allow for practice</p> <p>List what lunch should look like and sound like</p> <p>Find a time for students to chat with friends to meet the needs of belonging and fun</p> <p>Provide activities for students to do while waiting for others to finish—coloring, games, a project to work on, conversation starters for students to talk to one another</p> <p>Engage students as helpers—making sure garbage is thrown away, making sure desks are cleaned off, handing out wipes</p>

Quiet Time

Quiet Time is a wonderful mental break following recess or lunch, even if lunch is in the room. This is a nice time to decompress and refocus for the rest of the day's learning.

Quiet Time is flexible—15-20 minutes is all you need.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ability to share material	<p>Have a daily quiet time—if possible, consider taking it outside so students could also get a mask break</p> <p>Offer quiet options for students to choose—coloring, drawing, writing, playing a quiet game, resting with head down</p>

Link:

[Quiet Time - 1](#)

Read Alouds

Read-alouds are a great way to share stories, and to teach social emotional and academic skills. In this time of coming back together, stories can be a powerful way for students to talk about this time and discover connections to each other.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ability to sit on the rug together• Students ability to see the pictures because they are sitting at desks• Students doing a turn and talk or other interactive learning structures	<p>Use read alouds daily to teach social and emotional skills as well as academic skills. Set a few stories out and see which ones the kids want to read</p> <p>Use a projector or elmo for students to see the pictures when needed</p> <p>Find ways for students to interact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use share time to ask questions about books by predicting and comparing characters to themselves and other stories• Use read alouds as a way for students to find things that they have in common with each other <p>Create opportunities for reflection— have sentence starters to keep a journal after reading</p>

Link:

[SEL book list](#)

Closing Circle

Closing Circle is a great way to close your day. This could include an end of the day song, chant or reflection. During this time of returning to school, it offers an opportunity to gauge how kids are feeling with masks and new rules and expectations.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students' ability to meet in a small circle	<p>Have a closing circle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If possible, take circle outside• Ask the question while students are gathering their bags and cleaning up so they are ready to answer• Have students answer in line or while waiting for dismissal• Have students write their answers and post on the door or hand to teacher to read as they are lining up and walking out• Have students all shout answers (or whisper answers) on count of three

Link:

[Closing Circle Intro & Weekly Planning Guide - 1](#)

Dismissal

Dismissal is a part of the day that can often seem chaotic.
Changes in procedures add another layer of change for students.

COVID Impacts...	But we still...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giving high fives or goodbye• Students' ability to meet in one place or to switch classrooms for car/bus riders	<p>Model procedures and allow students the chance to practice</p> <p>Ask students their ideas for what is working or what is hard about dismissal</p> <p>Have on hand quiet games, an audio book, or questions for students to answer while waiting</p> <p>Have a song, chant, or saying as students leave</p>