Creating a Safe and Inviting Space for All Students
Your Classroom Environment: Creating a Safe and Inviting Space for All Students

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Helfrich Park STEM Academy
AGENDA

• Introduction
• Practical Ideas for Common Spaces
• Practical Ideas for the Classroom
• Support from EVERFI
Introduction
Why SEL?

- Close achievement gaps and motivate students to learn (1)
- Reduce disciplinary issues (3)
- Increase overall sense of wellbeing (2)
- Prepare students for lifelong success, including healthier relationships and ability to achieve long-term professional goals (3)

3 Weissbourd, Rick, and Stephanie Jones. "The children we mean to raise: The real messages adults are sending about values." Making Caring Common Project, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University (2014).
Core Competencies of Whole Child

Healthy

Safe

Challenged

Supported

Engaged

To succeed in the real world, students need higher-level thinking, communications, and problem-solving skills.

Supportive schools help prevent a host of negative consequences, including isolation, violent behavior, dropping out of school, and suicide.

Students who feel valued by adults and their school are more engaged and motivated to learn.

Safety can translate into higher academic achievement, increased student well-being, and greater engagement.

Students succeed more in school when they are emotionally and physically healthy.
Practical Ideas for Common Spaces
Stephanie DeYoung
Welcoming

- Greeting students as they walk in
- Upon leaving I say, “Have a great day!”
- Hanging out in my office to chat or chill
- Small talk that can lead to making great connections
Inviting

● Comfortable seating
  a place to hang out

● Open door office
Engaging

- Puzzles
- Origami
- Coloring pages
Representative

- Art
- Display boards
- Books, Book displays
YOUR IMPACT ON OTHER PEOPLE
is bigger than you think. Someone still giggles
when they think of that funny thing you said.
Someone still smiles when they think of the
compliment you gave them. Someone silently
admires you. The advice you give has made a
difference for people. The support and love
you’ve offered others has made someone’s day.
Your input and opinions have made someone
think twice. You’re not insignificant and
forgotten. Your existence makes a positive
difference, whether you see it or not.
Compassionate Reminders
Practical Ideas for the Classroom
Megan Wright
Creating a Positive and Safe Classroom Environment

- Get to know me
- Collaborative Learning
- Non-academic activities
- We learn through our mistakes
Get to Know Me

- Family
- Hobbies
- Favorites
  - (sports, ice cream, book, etc.)
● Pets
● Game outside
● Kagan silly sports
Support from EVERFI
Accessibility

At EVERFI, accessibility is an imperative. We have a unique opportunity to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities by deeply integrating accessibility into all aspects of our organizational culture. Our courses are:

- Developed to be Inclusive of all learners
- Designed to provide empathetic and innovative learner experiences
- Built to meet accessibility standards across most desktop, tablet, and mobile devices

Other Information:
- Build toward WCAG 2.1 Level AA
- Usability testing performed by people with disabilities
- Audits performed and VPATs created by 3rd party accessibility specialists
- VoiceOver, NVDA, JAWS and ChromeVox screen readers are supported

Learn More about accessibility at EVERFI:
EVERFI website
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access

Character Design
- Culturally diverse characters
- Various skin tones, hair textures, body shapes
- LGBTQIA+ representation
- Authentic voiceover

Narrative
- Varied career experience
- Knowledge from many genders
- Portraying multiple industries

Additional Considerations
- Avoid idioms
- User Testing
- Spanish Translation
- Accessibility Testing
Increasing Student Engagement

“I just wanted to share a quick story from one of my classroom launches this week in Louisville. As a 3rd grader was working on The Compassion Project, he ripped off his head phones and screamed "Mrs. Jennings! This character's name is Amir! My name is Amir!" with the biggest smile on his face.”

-KY Schools Manager

90% of participants in a First Book Study agreed: “Individuals would be more enthusiastic readers if they had access to books with characters & stories that reflect their lives.”
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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Social Emotional Learning

The Compassion Project Lower & Upper Elementary
Grades 2-5

Ignition:
Digital Wellness & Safety
Grades 6-9

Character Playbook
Grades 7-9

Honor Code:
Bullying Prevention
Grades 8-10
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Resources

BINAH: Building Insights to Navigate Antisemitism & Hate
Grades 9-12

306: African American History
Grades 8-12

306: Continuing the Story
Grades 8-12
Questions?
Let’s go Forward Together!

#LearnOn2022

- Access resources at everfi.com/create
- Join the EVERFI K-12 Facebook Page
- Follow us on social @EVERFIK12