

REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

by:

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Teachers, school administrators, students, and families were relieved when schools reopened, but the difficult task of rebuilding school communities has just begun. It is a key moment for children to establish the personal relationships that will sustain them during an unexpected academic year. With schools working remotely, alternating online education with in-person sessions, or shutting due to an epidemic, it will be difficult to create meaningful relationships between instructors and students, as well as among staff, students, and their families.

In this new educational environment, educators cannot presume that connections among students or between students and instructors will emerge and flourish on their own. Relationship-building will require the assistance of educators and school administrators. But while this task should be prioritized and allocated time throughout the school week, it need not be labor-intensive or even time-consuming if it is completed deliberately and early (Prothero, 2021).

It might be difficult to establish a community in which students feel at ease participating and expressing their thoughts in a non-traditional setting. Allowing students to discuss their thoughts in small groups, which can be less scary and boost their confidence in the larger group, is one way to foster trust among students. In addition, plan exercises such that students may work with diverse groups of classmates. This will aid in the formation of the social relationships essential for effective learning.

Mason (2021) stated that consider including a class motto, monthly student festivities, or shared goals to help build the desired classroom culture. These initiatives

will have a positive impact on the learning environment and classroom community. These ties will serve as an opportunity for kids as they endure the emotional turmoil caused by the pandemic. Every student should have someone who knows their interests and is looking out for them, whether it's a classroom teacher, a coach, a school counselor, or another school employee.

All children deserve individuals in their schools who care enough about them to intentionally cultivate constructive connections that allow them to make mistakes and grow. If we expect our kids to learn with us, they must understand our concern for them. They must also have opportunities to learn about one another in order to develop a community in which they may grow as learners together. Students will be better adjusted, more confident, and do better academically if they develop strong, pleasant relationships.

References:

Prothero, A. (2021, January 15). How to Build Relationships With Students During COVID-19. Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/how-to-build-relationships-with-students-during-covid-19/2020/09>

Mason, V. (2022, June 23). Rebuilding Relationships With Your Students Now and Post-COVID. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. <https://www.hmhco.com/blog/rebuild-relationships-with-students-now-post-covid>