

Teacher as Activator: tips for remote learning

Three ways teachers can engage and propel the online/remote learning process





ACTIVATOR

- Let your students know you are a learner. This is about progress not perfection.
- Be explicit about learning goals and provide ongoing opportunities for students to confirm understanding
- Encourage co-construction of success criteria
- Show them how to be organized, check in with them regularly and be flexible with deadlines
- Provide effective formative feedback both verbally and in written form
- Arrange an on-line and off-line peer support and feedback system
- Students' diverse needs will be more pronounced than ever. Prepare to adapt to enable them to succeed
- Apps and tools are secondary to the teacher's relationship to and connection with the students



CULTURE BUILDER

- Co-identify how norms are the same and different on-line and off-line; co-construct explicit norms that you continue to revisit as a class community
- Establish community routines on-line by including in every session: a fun community builder; kinetic activity, expressions of appreciation or gratitude; and a clear summary about what's expected for next time you meet
- Provide asynchronous and synchronous opportunities for learning to meet all needs
- Schedule optional friendly check-in times; invite feedback-- what's working/ what's not?
- Engage student voice by inviting them to co-design and contribute ideas projects and approaches
- Prioritize well-being of students. Create safe ways for them to individually share discomfort
- Encourage students to find joy; play, experiment and explore beyond the structured learning space



COLLABORATOR

- Establish rotating leadership roles for all students: recorder, coach, collector, reminder, chair
- Aim for interaction. Expect no more than 10 minutes of focused direct instruction and even less for younger learners
- Create an accessible hub where students and families can find all class materials
- Honour equity by facilitating a variety of ways families can communicate (phone, email) and show flexibility for families who are constrained
- Prioritize the 6Cs in learning design and encourage collaboration wherever possible; content acquisition cannot be sole focus on-line
- Take pressure off the caregiver to teach content; tap collaboration and creativity instead
- Work creatively with colleagues to reduce the on-line learning design pressure
- Incorporate intentional spaces for inquiry including assessment and reflection with colleagues and with students