BELONGING AND BECOMING

The Power of Social and Emotional Learning in High Schools

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VIDEO

Students talk about what makes a school ‘my place’

https://youtu.be/ihcV0Mflpl4

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What makes school ‘my place’ for youth?

1. Structures that help us know every student well
2. An intentional community
3. Norms of participation, respect, and reflection
4. Restorative practices
5. Curriculum that connects and engages
6. Developing student agency
Students talk about why strong teacher-student bonds matter

https://youtu.be/UBP6TtL3miE
Structures to help us know all students

- Daily ‘home base’ develops ‘whole learners’
- All adults show that they care about students
- Smaller class sizes via creative measures
- Feedback protocols meet learners where they are
- Teachers collaborate for student success
How do schools build ‘intentional’ community?

https://youtu.be/gMxpGTA_9JY
Intentional community

• Transition programs orient new students

• Peers make the case for the school’s expectations

• Students & teachers create classroom rules together

• Assemblies and rituals mix fun and traditions

• Security staff act like part of the community
Students talk about what makes a classroom a safe place to learn

https://youtu.be/LbHYSXSW1mE

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Participate, respect, reflect

- Shared responsibility for a safe and welcoming space
- Acceptance of differences, participation by all
- Explicit practice in respectful social & academic discourse
- Curricular studies that connect to justice and equity
- Student-led family conferences to review progress and set goals
Students and teachers talk about how to make it right when things go wrong

https://youtu.be/zTTqjlaYkMo
Restorative practices

- Meeting basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter

- Resolving conflict through peer mediation, juries, peace circles, etc.

- Using ‘public apology’ to acknowledge and repair harm done

- Counseling for those in need

- Maintaining close contact with families at home and at school
VIDEO

How can curriculum connect and engage youth with powerful learning?

https://youtu.be/rdw3ZVTJ_Hc

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Curriculum connects & engages

- Projects & expeditions that take learning outside school
- Student choices in matters of curriculum & assessment
- Reading & expression that engage learners with life issues
- Chances for students to teach what they know
- Service-learning to increase sense of meaning & purpose

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How does ‘belonging’ lead to ‘becoming’?

https://youtu.be/f6xGiBBLVgE
Developing student agency

- Conveying to students that ‘they matter’ and ‘they can’
- Encouraging youth to find their own voice
- Helping learners name what they fear
- Helping youth persist when something stops them
- Connecting students with opportunities in the larger community
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Thanks to
What Kids Can Do (WKCD.org)
The NoVo Foundation

More resources
www.HowYouthLearn.org

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