Increasing Student Engagement Through Whole Brain Teaching

Presented by:

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I can add some Whole Brain Teaching strategies to my “tool box.”

I can make a note to explore more about Whole Brain Teaching. (When it’s convenient!)
### KWL Table

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<th>K</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What I Know</strong></td>
<td><strong>What I Wonder</strong></td>
<td><strong>What I Learned</strong></td>
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**Topic:** _[Blank]_  
**Name:** _[Blank]_
“If a student’s whole brain is involved in learning, there isn’t any mental area left over for challenging behavior.”

Chris Biffle, Whole Brain Teaching for Challenging Kids
So, Let’s Get Started...

- **What is Whole Brain Teaching?**
  - Whole brain teaching is a method that integrates an effective classroom management system with learning approaches that tap the way your brain learns best.

- **Why use Whole Brain Teaching strategies in your classroom?**
  - Whole brain teaching provides engaging opportunities for students to be active participants in their learning. Students take on a bigger role in their learning through movement, repetition, and “teaching” each other.

- Whole brain teaching can be used with ALL grade levels!
Classroom Rules

Rule 1: Follow directions quickly.
Rule 2:
Raise your hand for permission to speak.
RULE 3:
Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
Rule 4:
Make smart choices.
Rule 5:
Keep your dear teacher happy!
hands & eyes
TEACH.

Okay!
SWitch!
MIRROR
See it all in action!

Movement and voice 'mirror' concept
WHOLE BRAIN TEACHING AND THE GROWTH MINDSET
“Imagine a system that graded students solely on foot speed. The teacher calls you and I out to the track and says we’re going to race. We both run hard and you beat me. I get an “F,” you get an “A.” Tomorrow we have the same race. Same result. After about a week, you don’t run hard, just enough to win. And I, because I know I can’t beat you, slack off. Before long, you loaf and I quit. Isn’t that what happens in traditional education? Our best students do just enough to get by and our weakest students, because they know they can’t win, bail out.
But what would happen if we changed the race? The teacher calls us out to the track. New rules. The racer who beats their previous best time \textit{by the greatest amount}, gets the top grade! Oh no! You have to run like crazy. And so do I. Every day! Beating me is not the point. You’ve got to keep beating yourself. And you know what... if you keep running hard, you will beat your previous best time. And so will I.

The race is more rewarding and motivating when we stop racing each other and race against ourselves.”
Whole Brain Teaching and the Growth Mindset

The Super Improvers Wall

Research suggests that nothing motivates students more intensely than breaking their own records. Brains are nourished by their own growth!
The Super Improvers Team: Rewarding Student Improvement

- Part of classroom management → Kids Crave Recognition!
- Rewarding students for intellectual and social growth
- Focus on student improvement → test scores take care of themselves!
- Every kid has an equal chance for success!

Every Child, in every way, can grow!
The Super Improvers Team: HOW?!

★ Index card for each student
★ Stars for improvements
  ○ 10 stars = incentive → Level Up
★ Goal-setting or anytime!
★ Every kid has an equal chance for success!
★ Top Level = Living Legend
Reflection: How does Whole Brain Teaching align with the Henrico Learner Profile?
Find a partner/group
Choose a standard or content area you are familiar with
Share ideas for a lesson that would involve WBT
Additional Videos:

Getting Started w/ Chris Biffle

Another Great Classroom Example
Additional Resources

Check out the Google Drive folder for some more "freebies" and a copy of this presentation:

Whole Brain Teaching Dumbarton
Feel free to reach out!

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