

# Student Engagement Strategies in an Online Educational Environment

Tips and Tricks to make the most of your distance  
learning opportunity

# Introductions



**Jennifer Burke**  
High School Science Teacher



**Cindy Willits**  
6th Grade Teacher



**Katie Barnett**  
1st Grade Teacher



**Diana Perney**  
Director of Onboarding and  
Professional Development



**Jamie Burrell**  
Family Support  
Coordinator



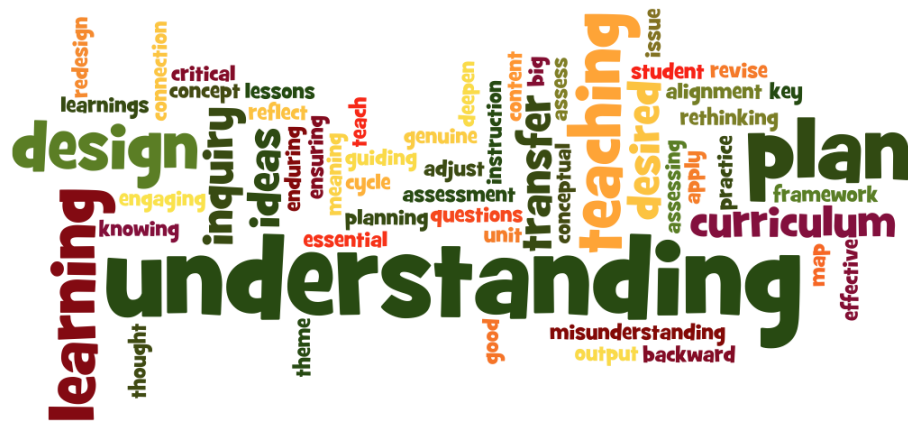
- Opened in 2001
- Kindergarten through 12th grade
- Celebrating 20 years of experience providing Virtual Education to students across Pennsylvania
- Utilize a blend of Synchronous, Asynchronous, and Hybrid Learning programs

#### Primary Programs:

- Learning Management System: Blackboard
- Curriculum: K12, Inc; Edgenuity
- Virtual Classroom: Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
- Additional programs: Study Island, Google Suite
- Family Support Coordinators, Parent Ambassadors, Guidance Counselors, Pupil Health, etc.

# Develop a Timeline--Backward Design

- Start with the end in mind
  - Effective
  - Efficient
  - Develop and maintain a consistent strategy



# Communication

- Timely
- Often
- Consistent
- Varies Modes
  - Robo Calls
  - Email
  - Video
  - Snail Mail
  - Document communications

**“Good communication  
doesn’t just happen; it is  
the result of good design”**

**-Stephen Few**

# Planning and Prep...not just for Teachers!

## 3 T's

- Timeline
- Tools
- Training

By failing to  
prepare, you are  
preparing to  
fail.

*Benjamin Franklin*

meetville.com

# Provide Tools



What do you need to meet your goal?

- Google Classroom?
  - Collaborate?
  - Zoom?
  - Blackboard?
  - Canvas?
- 
- Provide differentiated Training
    - Novice → Expert
    - Start small; grow your skill set

# Elementary Success: Partnering with Parents & Streamlining Instruction

#1 tip: set simple and clear expectations for all participants including parents





A positive relationship with  
parents in elementary  
directly impacts remote  
learning success!

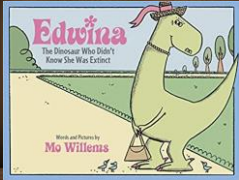
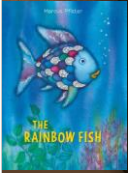
Parents control the  
learning environment!

Welcome to our class



The  
Book  
With  
No  
Pictures

B.J. Novak



# How are you supporting students?

Synchronous vs. Asynchronous: How are you using your time? Everything done in a sync class can be done in an async setting

- What fits best: Direct instruction, practice, remediation/intervention, social time or all of the above?
  - Tip: mix it up to ensure authentic learning is happening - just like you would in a classroom
- Functional availability of students?
- Support teachers: pushing in or pulling out? Co-teaching?
- What do you want to assess and how do you want to set it up?
  - Tip: mix up assessment modes just like in the classroom
    - PBL, exit tickets, videos (Flipgrid!), teacher data grabs, etc.

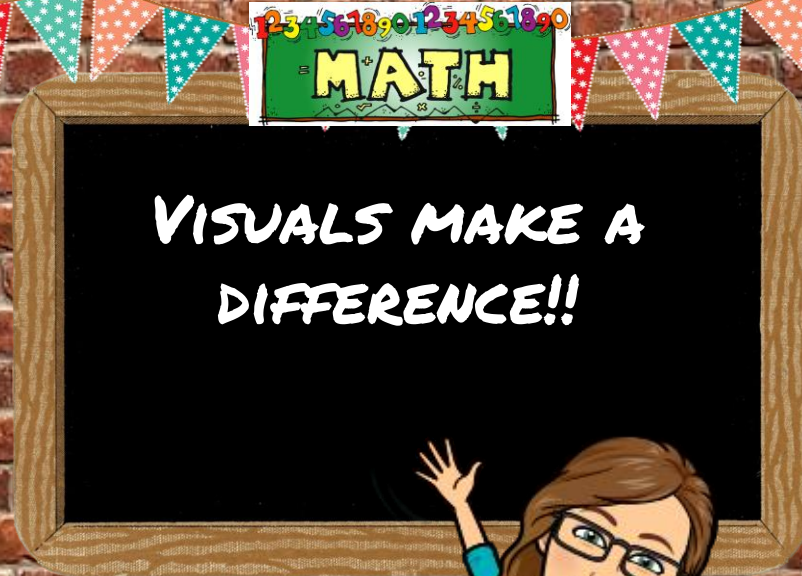
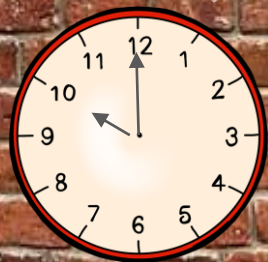


# Structuring a Schedule



- Plan time to teach classroom management & tools
  - If doing blended in or person learning, practice remote learning in class and plan for visuals and routines to transfer as well
- Build time into your day for parent connections & follow up
- Build extra time into your day for individual student follow up
- Build in weekly check ins with staff members for shared students
- Teacher schedules should NOT be mirror images of what they have with face to face students. Leave time for more administrative tasks and lesson creation.





**Our Hundreds Chart**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100







## Parent Partnership

Learning environment

Materials

Attendance

Follow up & Adjust

Communication

*Reach out consistently before issues arise*

***Getting them on your side***



# Follow up materials - examples & tips!

[CLICK HERE](#)

- cc the parent's email address if your school is set up to email student accounts directly
- Elementary students can log in but may not understand how to organize email effectively or communicate the contents of emails to parents for help
- Send reminders to parents for missing assignments not just students
  - TIP - save format and just edit the pieces
  - Send on Monday mornings if assignments due Fridays
- Send a mid-week reminder for assignments due
- Set aside time first thing, mid-day, and end of day to respond to emails.
- Create rules to help sort emails and separate administrative emails from student/family emails
- Use your Inbox as a to-do list, not as a catch-all for every email - delete or file when you're done

Katie Barnett  
1st grade teacher, PA Virtual Charter School  
[kbarnett@pavcsk12.org](mailto:kbarnett@pavcsk12.org)  
484-680-7815

Create a video bank for parents to view - make it easy to find

- How to's (submitting assignments, getting to live sessions, etc.)
- Class schedule
- Contact information

[Example weekly plan/lesson plan list](#)

- send to parents every Friday for the following week
- Transparency builds partnership
- Include needed materials and class times
- Assignments due on Friday with weekend as backup for families that need it

Email tips/tricks/templates

- The schedule should be 5 days, not a 6-day rotation
- Set a consistent schedule so families learn the routine and you can plan your day better
- Plan to keep 1-2 students after each live session to connect individually and gather progress monitoring data
- Maybe adjust the availability schedule for working parents 1-2 days a week
- Set aside time to follow up with parents via phone and in live sessions
- Plan fun sessions too - not just all academic. Everyone needs the break and you'll feel refreshed! Working in the guidance counselors, admin, and guest teachers!
- Example schedule of 8-4 work hours:
  - Email and class setup
  - Live sessions
  - Lunch break (get up and walk away from the

[\*\*https://tinyurl.com/y5zkdjjz\*\*](https://tinyurl.com/y5zkdjjz)

# Humanizing the Online Classroom - engaging your students and being YOU!

Connect with your students and have some fun! Click the picture!



How Do You Connect with Virtual Students?



# Use your webcam!

As much as you can - get on the webcam and get your kiddos on there, too!

If you are “known” for something in your brick and mortar classroom, then embody that in your online classroom!

Identify and connect with your kids EARLY and the learning will flow.





# Let your personality and passions shine through!

You can still wear that TEACHER hat!  
(Literally!) Or whatever else you do!




You can still use the webcam to SHOW  
things! Math, art, pictures, pets!



**SIMPLE** for students to post a picture of work or to **share** something with the class:


**Great way to remotely bridge the gap and students/parents can use it on their PC, iPad, mobile devices, etc. There is an app!**

<https://padlet.com/cwillits/zf7ujst6u3fj>




# TOPO MAP (OPTIONAL) Extra Credit

Post a pic of your topo map by 8/27/19 for extra (optional) credit in science. 10 points - if you do this, it is like getting an extra 100% in the gradebook!



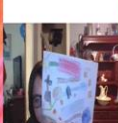
**Alicia O'Brien**

Here's my Topo map. I hope you all like it!




**zoe grossman's map**

amrr who lives in a pineapple under the sea




**Sarah E's Topo Map <3**

This is my Topo map, hope you liked it!

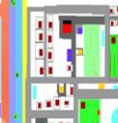


**Sanjiah McDaniel-Pitt**

Topo Map




**NOICE MAPSSSSSS**




**Elizabeth**

my map



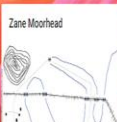
**Sean Casey**

Here is my topographic map. I put in a shipwreck that is saying "Abandon ship!"

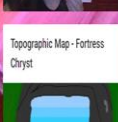


**lily harley and me fin**


we did this



**Zane Moorhead**




**Topographic Map - Fortress Chryst**




**lily harley and chloe**

we did this



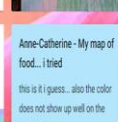
**Olivia Shane's Topo Map**

Good Job everyone! I love all of your guy's maps! :)




**TOPO MAP CHALLENGE SCREEN**

Created by Chloe




**Aimee-Catherine - My map of food... I tried**


this is it I guess... also the color does not show up well on the computer



**Stevie**




**Mckenzie**




**Jacob**

Look at this cool minecraft map.



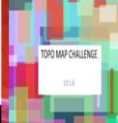
**My map - Diana**

I tried

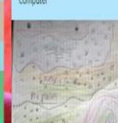


**my map**

my city full of weird things



**TOPO MAP CHALLENGE**



**Aimee-Catherine - My map of food... I tried**

# Poems and Haiku - Share yours or you are fond of (give credit, of course)

For Unit 4 Language Arts

## The busy house

The bird was nice,  
the bird was cool,  
the bird fell into the pool.  
The teapot steamed, the teapot was blue, don't let the tea spill on you!  
The kids about, the kids ran, the kids made a kitchen band.  
The dog barked, the cat scared, for some reason, my uncle has a bear.  
We all love each other much, our house is very loud, we can all go outside and watch the clouds.  
THE END

## Aaron's Haikus

Publicize noontide  
A whole, deadly venom heals  
Into the jaguar  
Uneasy midnight  
A little, confused bird runs  
at the old python

## Mystical brunette

A common, loyal frog snapped  
at the old kazo

## Natures Haiku - Spark Reverie

Hear the Swallows tune  
Listen to Thunder's outcry  
Heed to Nature's songs

Touch the life-filled leaves  
Embrace the Wind's heart grasped  
hug  
As she passes by

Taste Honey's sweetness  
And the flavors of the earth  
Savor the greenery

Smell the Flower's scents  
Breathe life in bounteous air  
Keep in earth's fragrance

Gaze upon Earth's wonders  
Great mountains' mid streams and  
plains,  
Static nightlights

Hearken the World's call,  
to make new discoveries  
Use facts and senses

## By: Spark Reverie

## Ariel's Haiku 'A Stallion's Ride'

The Stallion Strides  
Aloft plans as though a breeze  
Swiftly pressing on

## Autumn's Haiku

Silently they come,  
Shadows, deep and dark tonight,  
come to swallow me.

The stars left the sky,  
But the sun came out to play,  
Welcome, brand new day

## Sarah's Haikus

I will, I will, I will

## White Snow - by Sarah H.

White snow  
Loves to fall,  
Putting on a show,  
Having a ball.

It likes to drift,  
In a hurry,  
On a cliff,  
Or in a flurry.

If you have seen,  
The white, fluffy snow,  
And if your mind's been,  
It will have thought, "My, what a show."

## Ben's Haiku

What if Oceans roar?  
What if wind could whisper now?  
Nature is speaking

I Love your Haiku Sarah! Lol  
~Autumn

Asher's post- Found it online  
about soccer-author unknown.

The wind is you hair  
the cool morning or  
the challenge, the roar  
the forward comes now,  
and your time is now  
play with the ball  
the water hole

THIS IS SOCCER

Michael's Grahams cherry  
blossom haiku

Cherry blossoms fall  
before a golden apple into the  
orange pineapple

## The Voice - by Sarah H.

As I woke up in the morning -  
A whisper, soft -  
Nearly a husky silence,  
As if my conscience spoke.

A murmur echoed off the walls,  
So quiet -  
A holler, not nearly

## Mrs. Willitt's Haiku

Flower petals glide  
on the breeze, drifting swiftly  
flooding like angels.

## Sadie and Rachels Haiku

Deleting the book  
(we knew the syllabus was not right)  
By Rachael and Sadie

Deleting the book is NOT funny  
Help others, lift other, people can't say

We love you so don't

## The Senses of Spring - by Ben Melfinger

Do you know?  
Have you heard?  
Spring is here  
I hear a bird

Do you know?  
Have you seen?  
Spring is here  
I see a tree

## Sam's silly haikus

Made during breakfast time!

The great Summer breeze  
sunshine makes an adventure  
go outside and play!

GET THE PASTHIE AWAY  
FROM THE PASTHIE AWAY  
IT'S A BROWNIE TRICK

THE PASTHIE AWAY  
FROM THE PASTHIE AWAY  
IT'S A BROWNIE TRICK

## My Haiku's

Written by Derek Estep

THE PASTHIE AWAY  
FROM THE PASTHIE AWAY  
IT'S A BROWNIE TRICK

Haiku  
poetic drive

## Halie and the Cows

Written by Aaron Bierschick

## Halie and the Cows

THE PASTHIE AWAY  
FROM THE PASTHIE AWAY  
IT'S A BROWNIE TRICK

# Longer video to remind you of these tips: (click me)

Feel free to email me at [cwillits@pavcs.us](mailto:cwillits@pavcs.us)



- BE HUMAN - you are not perfect and you do not have to be - making it relevant and meaningful is the key.
- Ensure a connection of some kind other than just email - go with Zoom and schedule class sessions - if you can't be face to face physically, you CAN be on video!
- BE YOURSELF - whatever your "mojo" is in the physical classroom, find a way to transfer that to the online one! Be approachable.
- It's ok to be vulnerable and not know everything about your "new" tools! Be reasonable with yourself - don't be too critical.
- DO NOT bite off more than you can chew - start slow - get the basics down - build from there. You just need to be ready for one week at a time! You do not have to be Pinterest-worthy from the beginning!
- Other tips for your online sessions to consider - having a little script so you don't get "stage fright," have your lesson "plan" and any sites/documents open, manipulatives, etc - have them handy. .
- **Consider recording your sessions** and using this as an opportunity to be flexible and reach learners in a variety of ways. Recorded sessions can be an indispensable resource! (you can even embed a CODE WORD into them!)
- Even though you are holding class from home - think about your background, your surroundings and distractions in your home. Also just think about your lighting. If you sit in front of a window, that will look super odd on the webcam!
- Have a space set up to teach...you cannot keep doing this just from your couch only. You need your "stuff" handy!
- Have your things open and ready to share - like run through it in your mind.
- Be clear. Be concise. Be open. Be patient. Think outside of the box!
- Most of all - have fun!!! Enjoy this learning experience! You might even find a few things to KEEP in your teaching practice moving forward! If you build connections with your students, the learning will come! CONNECT FIRST!!!!

# Increasing High School Student Engagement

Create your online classroom space with a **fun** background.

\*If you teach SYNCHRONOUSLY, you have created an engaging classroom.

\*If you teach ASYNCHRONOUSLY, you have an engaging background for the videos you make for your students that they will see when they attend office hours.



Your enthusiasm and efforts to make an engaging classroom will transfer to the students.



which version of "Mrs. Burke"  
will capture more attention?



# Design your lessons to make students own the learning.

## Got VOCAB?

Divide the vocabulary into several groups. Each group defines and provides a visual/example of their word(s) to present to the class. This can be done in 1-2 class periods.

## PBL

Assign long term individual projects where students create a product based on what they have learned.

Spend a week having students share their final products. This is a great way to fit in a unit that you just cannot squeeze in.

## Longer Group Presentations

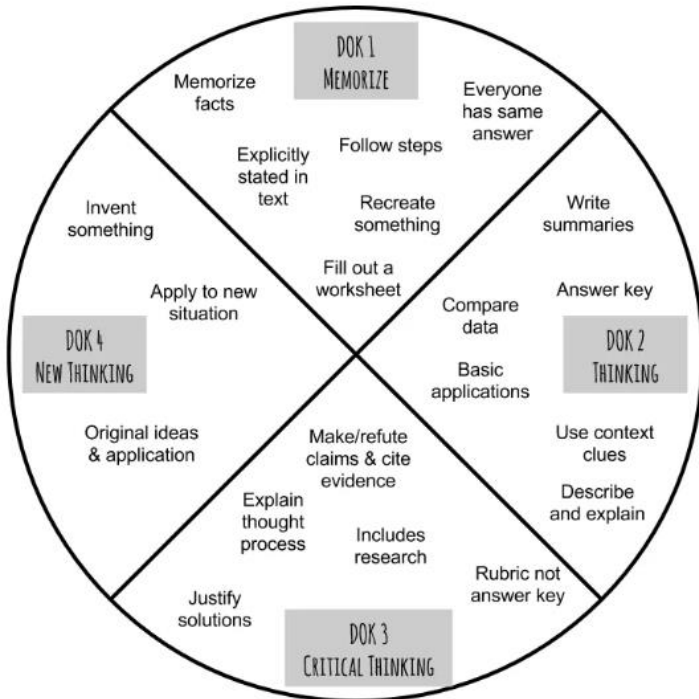
Divide your unit into sections. Each group is assigned a different section to research and present to the class. As the groups present, you can add in your two cents and other activities. You and your students are teaching the unit together!



# Assessment in the Virtual High School

*Design assessments knowing that students have full access to the internet via computer, phone, other devices.*

*Make peace with this fact. Then begin your assessment design.*



*Assessments should focus on DOK 3 and DOK 4.*

*Place less emphasis and weight on assessments utilizing DOK 1 and DOK 2.*

# **Free Tools** for effective *group work* and *PBL*

**Google Docs** - Create a group document, Work on an assignment together.

**Google Slides** - Create a group presentation

**Google Sheets** - Make graphs, Organize data

**Google Sites** - Students can create a website to demonstrate mastery of content.

**Wix** - Students can create a website to demonstrate mastery of content.

**Kahoot** - You or the students/groups create a game. It's fun when the students make the game and you play against the students. The students all band together to try to beat you.

**ScreenCast-o-Matic** - Create instructional and feedback videos for your students. Students create videos to communicate questions and concerns with you.

**Share YOUR favorite free tools and links in the chat area.**

# FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

## Engaging our Families

- Building Relationships
- Focus on Positive Growth
- Connecting Families
- Attendance- Tips to fight chronic absenteeism
- Geographic proximity and connectedness- Relevant Local Resources
- Single Point of Contact Each School Year
- Home Visits and Virtual Check-ins





# Family Support and Attendance Supplemental/Follow-Up Materials

[Teaching Attendance Professional Development: 3 online training modules](#)

[Finding Missing Students](#)

**Supporting documents- tips/tricks/templates**

[Attendance Success Plan Templates](#)

[Attendance Handouts for Families- Age Specific](#)

[Bringing Attendance Home- Attendance ToolKits](#)



# Questions?



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**PAVIRTUAL**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT