

Quick Morning Meeting Tips

Sometimes the school day is packed, and you don't have time for a regular Morning Meeting session. Here are some tips on how to get an effective 5-7 minute meeting on those tight days.

Purpose:

Morning meetings are a great way to build a relationship with our students, and we now know that this is key to preventing the majority of classroom misbehaviors. It may take a few minutes out of your morning, but it will save you many more throughout the day.

Greeting: (0 minutes!)

1. Chances are your students are already walking in while you hold the door for them, so just make this meaningful! Make eye contact, smile, reference something that happened yesterday, compliment them.
2. You can also have students greet the children behind them. Come up with a class greeting or fun inside joke style of greeting each other. Make this fun and the kids will want to join in each day.
3. Make sure they know as soon as they walk in what the routine is- where do they put their bags, and where and how do they sit. Make it easy to get to- the only requirement is students should be able to see everyone and should have a partner.

Activity: (3-5 minutes)

1. To make this shorter, make sure the students have a partner. It can be their table partner or reading partner or a new partner just for meetings. At first make sure they are as comfortable as possible with the partners, then change up partners every few weeks so that they get a chance to partner with as many other students as possible.
2. Make the activity directed so students share or do something simple. Maybe assign a different activity to a different day and then after a few weeks, change it up. Have students share with their partners only. Some examples:
 - a. What's your Favorite? (What was your favorite part of the weekend? What's your favorite trend right now? What is your favorite animal?)
 - b. Three GREATS (What are 3 things you are grateful for today?)
 - c. Mindfulness activity (Deep belly breaths, stretching, silent eye spy)
 - d. Compliments (Review what a compliment sounds like first!)
 - e. Jokes (Great for older kids!)
 - f. School specific sharing (Describe how field day was for you yesterday. How are you feeling about the math test this week?)
 - g. Problem Solving (Collect class problems from the students all week in a suggestion box and choose one to bring up. Have students talk to their partner about a solution.)
 - h. Allow students to come up with topics! This will elicit even more participation!
3. Then pick a few students to share their or their partner's answer. Choose different students each day so that by the end of the week all students have had the opportunity to share.

Class News: (2 Minutes)

This is just a time to share any upcoming important information about the class- forms that are due, upcoming field trips, tests, or any other important or exciting class or school news. End the meeting with a "Let's do this!" attitude. You could even create a class cheer.

Questions?

Contact me!

KristenTame@gmail.com

Visit www.KristenTame.com/morningmeetings for a video!

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