

Brain Target #1: Emotional Climate



Strive to create a space that...

- Empowers students to advocate for themselves and others
- Fosters Collective accountability and mutual feedback exchange between teacher and students
- Provides guidance and support on communication skills, so that there are frequent opportunities for authentic conversation and discussion
- Families are informed of topics covered and encouraged to actively engage and interact with instructional staff
- Utilizes and comfortably incorporates additional staff and resources so that there is access to support as needed (example: content that is triggering or sensitive in nature would best be introduced with easy access and collaboration with counselors, resource staff, etc.)
- Challenges ones preconceived ideals or biases in a safe and comfortable way
- Centers and Reinforces the Growth Mindset

Additional Tools For Your Reference

- **Designating a Visual Cue somewhere in the room as the “Baggage Claim”**
 - A sample visual has been provided that you may print and use in your own classroom
- **Give students the chance to share and use the pronoun and name they identify with and use them consistently**
 - Additional Information sheet has been provided following this slide that you may print and keep separately for easy reference
- **Establishing Community Agreements with your students for each class period and posting them visibly in the room**
 - Instructions have been provided for using Community Agreements with your class





Your baggage is yours alone to hold/carry. No one else is expected to be responsible for holding, carrying, or being accountable for the baggage that you bring into the space.

Using Self-Identified Pronouns

General

- Model introducing with name and pronouns
- Decentralize Gender Pronouns
- Begin the year with surveying students pronoun use
- Check for any variation in where they use their pronouns (home vs. school)
- Can be asked along the same lines/time as nickname
- PRACTICE

Correcting other people using incorrect pronouns

- Rephrase it for clarification by saying part of it with the correct pronoun
- Model it correctly going forward
- Directly confront, casually, “hey just in case you didn’t realize, _____ uses they/them pronouns”

Reacting when you make a mistake

- Don’t overreact and draw attention
- Don’t over apologize (inadvertently the other person feels compelled to say “It’s okay”)
- Don’t make it about you
- Acknowledge it, move on



Community Agreements

- Community Agreements are the norms identified, discussed, and agreed upon by all members of the class.
- Unlike rules, they're developed through collaboration and honest communication and are equally established by all parties of the classroom.
- Can include how strategies for confronting conflict, respecting identities and values, general procedures for routines, mission statements, disclaimers, etc.
- Beneficial ensuring students have shared investment in the classrooms dynamic.
 - Example: if an issue arises, rather than the teacher correcting from an authoritarian role, the students can help redirect one another by reminding and holding one another accountable for the agreements that were collectively made.

