



40 Ways to build relationships with students



1. Greet each student, every class period
2. High fives
3. Looking them in the eye and saying, "I believe in you."
4. Handwrite a birthday greeting and leave it on their desk
5. Call home or send home a note about their positive qualities
6. Ask about their family
7. Have lunch with them
8. Take time to show the student their grade, what it means and how they can improve it.
9. Speak positively to them (nice haircut, new shoes, great focus today, etc)
10. Put their names in a bag, once a week (or day depending on the type of class) pull out a name, and have the other students pay a compliment to the one standing. You say the last one.
11. Be genuine with all of your students
12. Privately ask them how you can help them.
13. Tell them you love them and mean it
14. Admit when you make a mistake
15. Let them know it's okay to make a mistake
16. Hug them
17. Make eye contact and smile every day
18. For teens, play music between classes and take requests of what music to play (school appropriate, but that they will relate to)
19. Tell them you care, tell them why you care, show them how much you care, and repeat consistently
20. Ask about their favorite (book, sports team, hobby, etc)
21. Know each of your student's names and use it with eye contact outside of your class
22. Attend activities in which they participate
23. Ask them how they are feeling and really listen to the answer with no judgement
24. Write each student a weekly note that begins with, "I am proud of you because"
25. Write each student a weekly note that begins with, "I love"
26. Positively give them honest praise for when they are doing what you want
27. Tell them of your struggles so they can see you as a person
28. Be sure to spend at least 5 minutes a week with each student
29. Let them know they are loved and accepted even when they make a mistake
30. Let them know it is their behavior you don't approve of, not them personally.
31. Take some time at the beginning of the year to ask your students to write down something you wouldn't know about them just by looking. Then USE that information throughout the year in private conversations with them.
32. Let them know you care about them, not just the subject you are teaching them!
33. If they have shared something with you, remember it and ask about it at a later time.



34. Joking with the kids during lunch, switching classes, before and after school, etc
35. A gentle hand on a shoulder and saying "I'm here if you need to talk" when you can see someone is struggling.
36. Instead of asking, "Why aren't you on task?" say "How can I help you?" Make sure to add the "how" because if you just say "Can I" they will say no.
37. If working with older students, have those "awkward" conversations because it lets them know you care.
38. Be a constant "good" in their life
39. If you see they have a need and you can afford it or can find a way to get it for them, do so...privately.
40. Use the 2:10 Strategy. 2 minutes a day every day for 10 days really getting to know your most challenging student (you can google this for complete instructions)

