

KATI IDEAS TO GO



Calling on Students

Calling on students equally and randomly is difficult. One idea is to write each student's name on a wooden stick and then place all the sticks in a plastic zipper bag. To avoid calling on the same students—and to keep all students on their toes—draw sticks from the bag as you call on them to answer questions, solve math problems, and so on. This method also can be used to divide students into groups for projects and studying, as well as for other activities.

Creating Student Files

Have students fill out information sheets on the first day of school. The sheets should include items such as bus numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, class schedules, and other pertinent information. These “personnel files” provide contact information at your fingertips if you need to contact a parent, and they allow for easy access to students during the school day (e.g., if they leave something in your classroom).

Instilling Time Management

Help students manage their own time with a device such as a timer, stopwatch, or whiteboard timer. Using a timer in low-pressure situations helps accustom them to being timed. Preparing them in steps builds in success and increases students' confidence. Try this for quizzes and tests to prepare them for standardized testing. Best of all, a timer cannot get distracted or respond to students' pleas, and it rings when time expires!

Remembering Absent Students

Do you have trouble remembering who was absent from the previous-day's class? One solution is to write the absent student's name in a specific place on your board (e.g., next to the agenda) as well as on any assignments and tests or quizzes, placing those papers on top of the pile to give to them upon their return to class.

Ideas submitted by KDP Member Meike McDonald, Charleston, SC.

Classroom Management Problem Solvers

What simple ideas have solved your classroom management problems?

Email them to NewsEditor@kdp.org.