

Davis Senior High School

Community Building Circles (CBCs)



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CBC Greetings & No Opt Out Share: This is a great time to teach students social skills, and how to appropriate communicate with one another. Greetings can be as simple as a, “hello,” or “good morning,” or as elaborate as a call and response, dance move, or some student “made-up greeting.” You can use this opportunity to talk about eye contact, proper handshake etiquette, a solid high five, tone of voice, and body language. You should also use these skills to greet students at the door at the beginning of each class period.

No Opt Out Share: This share elicits a quick 1-2 word response from every person in the circle. This is 2 minutes maximum.

CBC Open Share Topics: Create an environment where students build the confidence to open share (volunteer) on the prompt for that class CBC. Successful shares are planned by teachers. Set the timer for 3 minute for lesson pacing. Topics should focus on open-ended real-life issues. You can tie in current events, world news, media controversies, pop cultures, etc. Eventually you want to encourage students to come up with share topics on their own (like the safety blanket example in *The Morning Meeting Book*), but you must model great share topics first. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your students as people, and for students to have conversations with other students about topics that go beyond just academics. Life skills and social skills are just as important as standards and objectives, although, this is a great time to take academic topics and tie in personal connections or social skills. This is where the relationship building really happens. One great example of a share topics includes the bumper sticker example from *The Morning Meeting Book*.

Sections	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	What teacher or admin would you like to be for the day?	One character quality you admire about your best friend.	One thing you feel teachers don't understand about students.	Try and solve this riddle... What is green before you eat it, red while you eat it and white after you are done eating it? <i>Watermelon</i>

2	If I was stranded on a deserted island with 3 things from my house, they would be...	Describe one event that has changed your life for better or worse... or one event that would change your life!	If you had one superhero power, what would it be? Would you be willing to give that power up in order to be a normal kid?	Describe an outdoor game you used to play in the summertime.
3	If you could be in any TV show what would you be in and why?	If you could use 1 word to describe yourself, what would it be and why would you choose this word!	What would your perfect birthday be like?	What animal would you to have as a pet?
4	One day at school, a bully begins to pick on you. How would you deal with this situation?	Describe your favorite rainy day that you can remember. What did you do? Would you do anything differently?	How do you think being a real celebrity would change your life?	A friend borrows a toy or iPhone from you and breaks it. The friend refuses to replace it or buy a new one and calls you stupid for worrying about it. What would you do?
5	Describe what would be in your dream room and what it would look like...	Who is the most inspirational person alive today?	What's your earliest memory?	If you could cook any meal for your family, what would you cook? Describe the meal and tell how you would make it.

CBC Community Building Games and Activities (use to prevent boredom and redundancy - avoid any games being repeated throughout the day across other classrooms. All descriptions and resources attached). Games and activities should focus on community building, and teaching about teamwork. Activities range between 5-10 minutes.

Sections	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Name tags	2 truths, 1 lie	Animal quiz	All about me poster
2	I have never	9 seconds	Venn diagram in pairs	Change 3 things

3	20 questions	Fact or fiction	Clap, slap	Firefly
4	Silent by bday	Rock paper scissor sprinkle	Blackout bingo	Stranded on an island
5	Maze game	Commonalities, Uniquities	I pass to you	Directions game
Extras	Rock origami	3 fact telephone	Drawing bugs	Silent ball
Extras	Who is missing?			

CBC Activity Descriptions

****Please come see me if something does not make sense! Some activities are super simple and super fun, but may be difficult to describe in writing. Also, if you need help with more ideas after the first two weeks, please come see me! I have plenty more activities. Have fun!**

TUESDAY:

Name Tags

Materials Needed: Paper, markers

Pass out plain white paper to students to make name tags. Have them tri-fold it and then write their name in one of the boxes in the center so that it is large, dark and legible. In the four corners, have students draw two pictures that represent them and write two adjectives that describe them, and allow them to decorate the name tags as they wish. During CPR, have students turn and share their name tags and introduce themselves to a neighbor, describing what the adjectives and the pictures represent, and why they chose them. Then, have students introduce their partner to the class making sure to tell what the adjectives are and describe their partners' pictures.

I have never- Everyone stands in a circle with 5 fingers up. The goal is to be the last one standing. To get classmates "out" they must think of things that they have NEVER done that they think their classmates have done. If classmates have done whatever is said, they must put one finger down. Once all fingers are down, they must sit down and wait until there is only one person left standing. Remind students that this must be school appropriate! Example, "I have never received a lunch detention." All students who have received a lunch detention before must sit down.

20 questions- Think of an object and then give students a hint about the object. Ex: "I'm thinking of an animal)." Students then are

allowed to ask up to 20 yes or no questions about the object. The student with the winning guess is allowed to be the next person to think of an object.

Silent by bday- Have students silently get into a straight line by birthday from January to December. The key is to be SILENT.

Origami Rock

Materials Needed: Rock Origami Worksheet. Refer to [handout](#).

This is a silly following instructions activity. Make sure you read the worksheet so you know what to expect! =)

Drawing on the experience- Organize students in pairs. (The ideal pair consists of two students who do not know each other. Provide each student with a blank sheet of paper and a colored marker. Instruct the students to interview each other. Each student must come up with five facts to share with his or her partner -- but the "trick" to the activity is that the students can't record those facts in words; they can use only pictures! The students will have a good laugh at some of the caricatures they draw; they might even help each other figure out how to draw certain things. When the pairs have finished interviewing, students share their pictures as they introduce their partners.

WEDNESDAY:

2 truths, 1 lie- Standing in a circle, give students one minute think time to come up with three facts about themselves, 2 being truthful, and 1 being a lie. They can put the facts in any order they want to. Go around the circle and have student give their facts. Allow the class to have time to pick which one they think is the lie.

9 seconds of fame- Sitting in a circle, give students one minute think time to come up with as many random facts about themselves, but don't tell them why. Then, have one student at a time stand up and say as many facts about them at a time in 9 seconds. Have a timer ready.

Fact or fiction- During do now time, have students write a narrative (story) about their best birthday party. Tell them that the events in their story can be fact or fiction, but remind them that the goal is to be convincing, because they will be sharing their story with their class. Have students stand in a circle and read their stories, and then the class can decide if the story is fact or fiction. Depending on time, have students form several groups to share these stories.

Rock paper scissor sprinkle- Students turn to the person closest to them and challenge them to rock, paper, scissor (just once). The loser then has to follow the winner and chant their name. The winner then looks for another student to challenge, and this continues on until there is only one person left standing and the whole class is chanting their name.

3 fact telephone- Give students one minute to think of three quick facts about themselves. Then, have students go tell their three facts to another student. The students will now swap facts and own the other person's facts as their own. They switch again and tell another person their new facts and so on. After 4-5 rotations, have students meet back in a circle, and tell the last set of facts that were told to

them. The class can then guess who the facts originally belonged to, and the owner can make corrections to the facts as necessary. They will get mixed up!

Let me Introduce Myself- Have students crumple up a piece of paper into a shape that describes them or what they like to do. Have them go around the CPR circle and share their shape and why they chose it, using the sentence stem, “Let me introduce myself.”

THURSDAY:

Animal quiz

Materials Needed: The quiz to pass out to students or to have it projected

This icebreaker works well in a middle or high school science classes. It presents a humorous quiz that emphasizes that students often think too hard in science; sometimes the answers are much more obvious or easy than students might initially think. Start the activity by providing students with a sheet of scrap writing paper. Announce that you are going to present a little quiz about material they should already know. Preface the questions by saying that the events in the question are all happening *concurrently* (at the same time).

Following are the quiz questions:

1. How do you get a giraffe into a refrigerator?
2. How do you get an elephant into a refrigerator?
3. The Lion King is having a meeting and has invited every animal on Earth to the meeting. What animal does not show up?
4. There is a lake full of angry crocodiles and you need to get to the other side. How do you do it?

Answers to the quiz:

1. You just push it in.
2. First you have to pull out the giraffe in order to push in the elephant.
3. The elephant doesn't show up, because it is in the refrigerator.
4. Just swim across, because all the animals are at the meeting.

Reiterate your earlier point that sometimes answers in school, as in life, are much easier than we make them out to be!

Venn diagram in pairs

Materials Needed: Friendship Venn Diagram (refer to [handout](#))

Have students pair up with a classmate to fill out a venn diagram (in order to recognize similarities and differences) about the two of them together. Have each pair write down one similarity and one difference, and share it with the class

Clap, slap- Sit in CPR circle with desks in front of everyone. Teacher uses hands to do a 3-beat movement (ex: clap, right snap, left

snap). Everyone copies the teacher (if they mess up they are out and have to sit there silently). The next person will repeat the 3-beat movement and add one more one. Everyone repeats, and once again are out if they mess up. This continues on until there is only one person left.

Blackout people bingo

Materials Needed: People bingo Sheet. Refer to [handout](#) for instructions.

Play bingo!

Drawing bugs

Materials Needed: Drawing Bugs- Read instructions on worksheet!

Interviews

Materials Needed: Interview Questions (you can make these up)

FRIDAY:

All about me poster (robot)

Materials Needed: All about me robot PDF

During do now time, students will complete an all about me poster to share with the class. During CPR, students will present their poster. This is good practice for oral presentations in front of the class.

Change 3 things- Students are paired up with a partner, and told to look carefully at their partner's hair, clothes, etc. while facing each other. Teachers should give them one minute to do this and remind them of how important it is to be observant. Then, the teacher give students 30 seconds and will tell the students to turn away and change 3 things about them (pop a collar, take off a belt, untie a shoe, etc.). Partners will then face each other once again and try to point out the changes. Partners should do this 3 times with each other before teacher has them switch partners to do it again. Students should switch until they have had 3 partners, and teacher should decrease the amount of time given each time in order to make the game more challenging.

Firefly

Materials Needed: A bag of skittles or colored candy or something colored of some sort

Each player takes a candy out of the bag and hides it in their hand. After all players have their "firefly," they walk around SILENTLY giving each other a peek at the color of their candy. When they find a matching color, then they travel together to find more matching fireflies. Once all players have found their friends, each group reveals its' color. Remind students that this is a SILENT game!

Stand up

Materials Needed: List of statements

Have a list of statements ready to read to the class. Direct students to stand up if they statement pertains to them. This can be as simple as, "I am an only child," or as personal as, "English is hard for me." At the beginning of the year you want to stick with the simple statements, and as you build community, you can dive deeper. Have students look around to see what they have in common

with their classmates.

Stranded on island- Tell students they are stranded on an island and that they are allowed to have five things with them. What would it be and why? Have them write a paragraph about it and share it with a partner. Have students share out their partners' response.

Silent ball

Materials Needed: A ball (I have extras if anyone needs one)

There are many variations of Silent Ball that teachers do. Some of the methods you can feel free to include or not, based on whatever you're more comfortable with!

What is silent ball?

Students toss around a small soft ball or squishy toy to each other. The tosses must be gentle – no throwing the ball as hard as you can, no aiming for a person's face, etc. The last student left who doesn't drop the ball is the winner!

What are the rules?

Based on how you'd like the game to go, this varies teacher to teacher. The #1 rule is that students **cannot talk**, thus **silent** ball. 😊 The rest is up to you if you want to include it:

- Students can sit on desks/tables or stand
- Sometimes the teacher will call out additional "rules" as the game goes on. Usually this adds an extra level of difficulty to an otherwise very simple (and never ending) game of Silent Ball.
 - Ex: "You must throw the ball left-handed only." "You have to hop on one foot." "Cover one eye." "Do a spin before you throw the ball."
- Some teachers will designate a student to call out the additional "rules" instead. You will find some students are very creative about this! • The teacher can be the one who decides who is out of the game and who isn't, or the student who is making up rules can also do this. • Prizes for the winner optional.

Have fun! This is one of the few times students will be silent willingly, as it is one of their favorite games.

EXTRAS:

Maze game- Refer to [handout](#) for instructions

Commonalities, uniqueness

Materials Needed: List of statement

Have students seated at their desks or in a circle or against the back wall or however you want them arranged. They will need to be able to move from one side of the room to the other. Read the list of commonalities and unquities and have students move to the appropriate side of the classroom. Same as in the “stand up” activity, this could be simple statements or personal ones.

I pass to you

Materials Needed: Random objects, ex: role of masking tape

Students sit in a CPR circle. The leader selects an object, for example a roll of masking tape. However, the tape is no longer a roll of tape when it is passed from player to player. The tape could become a necklace, cd, donut, or whatever the leader decides to call the tape. The leader starts and says, “insert name, I pass to you a donut.” The player receiving the item says, “thank you insert name,” and turns to their other neighbor and repeat the process until the roll of tape has made it all the way around a circle. If students are quick, repeat the game with a different object.

Directions Game

Materials Needed: Directions List and paper. Refer to [handout](#).

Read the set of directions to the students and see how well they do. It will end up being a picture of some sort. Remind them that the goal is to be excellent listeners and direction followers.

Who is missing?- First, come up with a greeting (ex: Welcome back!). Then, have students put their heads on their desks without peeking. The teacher will then walk around the classroom and tap a student’s shoulder (you can do multiple students once they get the hang of it). That student should then leave the classroom and wait outside. Once the student is outside, have the class sit up and figure out who is missing. When the missing person is invited back in the classroom, have the students shout (in a controlled volume) the greeting that was agreed upon.

****OTHER ACTIVITIES IF YOU HAVE TIME:**

Fizz, buzz- In a circle, students will take turns (clockwise) to count from 1-35, but they have to replace every multiple of 5 with fizz, and every multiple of 7 with buzz. If they mess up you have to start again from 1. If they get to 35 they have to end with fizz buzz! If they are great at it, have them do it again to try to beat their previous time.

College chant- As a class, come up with a college chant, or teach them one.

4 corners- Number four corners in your room from 1-4. Pick one student to be “it” to go face a wall not close to any of the four corners. Have the rest of the students silently move to one of the four corners and then tell the “it” student to pick a number 1-4. All students in the picked corner is out and has to return to their seats. Give students a chance to switch corners and repeat the process over and over until one person is left standing.

Letter to future self- Have students write a letter to their future self. Have them include their likes, dislikes, current friends, etc. File these away to be returned to them at a later date.

Silent by height- Have students silently get into a straight line from shortest to tallest. The key is to be SILENT!

Life with the Wright Family- refer to [handout](#) for instructions

Time capsule

Materials Needed: Time Capsule Worksheet

Give each student a sheet with questions such as

- What's your favorite TV show?
- What's your favorite song?
- What's your favorite book? on it.

There's a space for students to answer the questions at the beginning of the year and another space for them to answer the same questions at the end of the year. After students put their answers in the first blank, collect all the sheets and put them away into the filing cabinet. It's always funny at the end of the year to hear them laughing and screeching over their answers from the beginning of the year. They always change their minds by the end of the year. Students will surely be amazed at their growth -- physically and academically

Acrostic Names- Have students create an acrostic poem with their name. The letters should be drawn down the side of a piece of paper and each line has to begin with a letter in their name. Post these in your classroom.

Example (theirs should be more than one word):

Liz
Is
So
Amazing!

Alphabet relay

Materials Needed: Two poster papers with A-Z already drawn on it. Leave space for students to write.

Place students into two teams and create two aisles for them to put their chairs to sit in a straight row. Tape the poster paper in front of the classroom (and directly in front of the two rows) and have students fill out the A-Z with information from your syllabus, classroom rules and expectations. The goal is to fill out the A-Z poster faster than the other team. Only one person can be at the poster at a time, and they have to pass the pen to the next person before the next person may go up (this will prevent pushing and shoving and make it safer for students). At the end, after both teams have finished filling out the poster, they can pick up to three things to challenge (ex: if something is completely off topic).

If this sounds really confusing come see me! It's really easy and really fun... Just hard to describe!

People scavenger hunt

Materials Needed: Student survey scavenger hunt worksheet

Have students walk around the classroom to find other students that match the descriptions on the survey.

Paper taped on back**Materials Needed: Paper, markers, tape**

Have students write their name on a piece of paper and then tape it to their back. Students will then walk around the classroom and write nice notes on each other's backs. Have students keep these in the front of their binder.

Snowball:Compliment**Materials Needed: Paper**

First, have students write their name on a piece of paper. Have students come to the CPR circle to stand. Once students are ready, have them crumple the paper into a ball and throw it into the center. Explain to them that at first all snowballs look similar, but once you examine them more closely, you can see that they are unique which makes them interesting. Remind them of all the interesting classmates that they have gotten to know. Then, have students pick up a snowball, making sure not to get their own. Give students a few minutes to write a nice thing, something they appreciate or a compliment about the classmate whose snowball they picked up. Going around in a circle, have students read out the snowballs and guess who they belong to.

Interviews**Materials Needed: Interview Questions (you can make these up)**

Pair students up with someone that does not sit around them. Give students ten minutes to interview their partner. When they are finished, have them return to their seats and write a feature article about their partner. Have students share it with the class or the students around them.

Clues game (similar to 20 questions)- Send one student out of the classroom, and then come up with a random object with the rest of your class. When you have decided on an object, bring that student back in, and allow them to ask questions. They students are allowed to give them clues also. When they guess it correctly or give up, let them pick the next student to go outside.

Catch phrase

Materials needed: A class set up papers with random objects on them

Create 32 slips of paper with random objects on them, put them in a hat and let students pick one out of the hat. Give them 30 seconds to figure out what they are going to do, and then take turns going. Students must give clues to their class about what they have without saying rhymes with, sounds like, starts with, etc. They can say words, sentences or even act it out.

Snowball: fact- Have students write a fact about themselves that no one knows about on a piece of paper, making sure to not put their name on or let anyone see their fact. Have students come to the CPR circle to stand. Once students are ready, have them crumple the paper into a ball and throw it into the center. Explain to them that at first all snowballs look similar, but once you examine them more

closely, you can see that they are unique which makes them interesting. Remind them that we have very interesting classmates that we should all get to know. Then, have students pick up a snowball. Going around in a circle, have students read out the snowballs and guess who they belong to.

Firefly: Materials Needed: A bag of skittles or colored candy or something colored of some sort

Each player takes a candy out of the bag and hides it in their hand. After all players have their “firefly,” they walk around SILENTLY giving each other a peek at the color of their candy. When they find a matching color, then they travel together to find more matching fireflies. Once all players have found their friends, each group reveals its’ color. Remind students that this is a SILENT game!