



A Place of Belonging: Cultivating School Communities Where Strengths Are Valued, Nurtured, and Embraced

June 24-27, 2024

Are you up for the challenge??

Complete one or more of these challenges as a team for a chance to win a prize!

Email your entries as photographs or videos to amy.wheeler-sutton@uvm.edu
each day by 8pm.

All week: Strike a pose!

Find your favorite location at Killington (or at the photo booth on Wednesday night) and ask someone to take a photo of your fabulous team.

Monday: Roses, Thorns, Buds

- As a team, reflect on:
 - Roses: highlights, successes, or small wins that happened for your team this year
 - Thorns: challenges your team experienced or things you need more support with
 - Buds: new ideas that have blossomed or things your team is looking forward
- Create a visual representation of your conversation to submit.

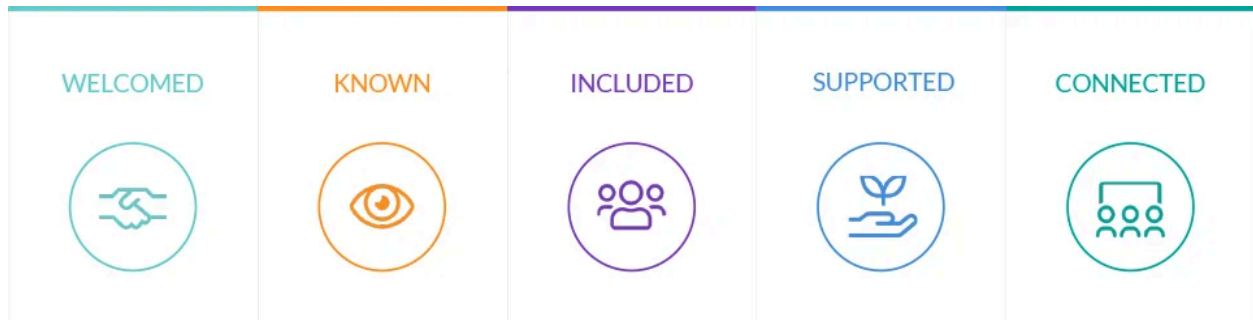
Tuesday: Sense of Community

- Brainstorm, discuss, and choose an idea here (or one of your own) for further exploration or implementation to improve the sense of community at your school. Submit your idea and one action step you'll need to take to get it started.

○ Expand volunteer opportunities	○ Host family workshops
○ Offer home visits	○ Set up a mentoring program
○ Get information out in the community in ways that are accessible for all	○ Enlist family leadership in decisions about school structure
○ Create a system for clubs during the school day	○ Develop student internships for class credit or PLPs
	○ Consider forming a long-term partnership with a business

Wednesday: Measure Your Sense of Belonging

The five pillars of belonging in your workplace are:



When any single pillar is activated, feelings of belonging double. When all five are activated, belonging triples!

- On your own, answer the degree to which you feel each of the following:
 - I feel a strong sense of belonging at my school
 - I feel warmly welcomed at my school (first day, new team, new role)
 - I feel known as an individual at my school
 - I feel included at work: my opinions are valued, I can respectfully disagree, I am sought out by others for my ideas or expertise
 - I am supported at work in achieving my personal and professional goals
 - I feel a strong connection with my peers/colleagues at work.
- Do something this week to increase a teammate's feelings of being welcomed, known, included, supported, or connected.
- When/if someone reaches out to do the same for you, acknowledge them and let them know you appreciate their gesture.
- As a team, determine and submit one action your team can take to improve staff feelings of belonging next school year.