

The AVID Advantage

TR's Monthly AVID Newsletter

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Remote Classroom Management

The First Days of School...



I remember reading Harry Wong's The First Days of School when I started teaching. It is a classic!

However, not even classroom management expert Harry Wong has advice on teaching and managing an online class! We are truly in unprecedented times. Most of the classroom management tricks we rely on in person (stern glances, proximity, detentions...) are no longer applicable online. So what do we do?

Now that we are in the second quarter, we have learned some tips and strategies for making our online classes run a little smoother.

TR teachers are innovative problem solvers! If you have any tips or advice to share, please send me an email or fill out the newsletter idea form on the AVID website.

AVID website: <https://sites.google.com/ttdistrict205.net/travid/for-staff>

Involve Students in Establishing Norms



Teaching remotely means that we need a new set of norms for the students to follow! Can they eat during class? How long do they have to keep their camera on? How can they signal if they need help?

There are many suggestions online for norms you can use during remote learning. However, involving your students in creating the norms helps create buy-in from the students. If students have a say in creating the rules, they are more likely to follow them!

The start of the second quarter is a great time to establish or reestablish your norms. Students can reflect on what is working well and what may need to change.

Here is an easy, three-part plan to have students create norms:

1. Explain to students the importance of setting class norms, and that you would value their input
2. Send students to breakout groups to make their own list of norms
3. Return to whole group meeting to compare lists, and create a "final" list.

Tools and Ideas:

- Have students brainstorm on a Jamboard or [Padlet](#)
- Have students collaborate on a Google slide or google doc to share with the class
- Create a Norm Acrostic - have groups use one word to establish norms and create their norms using each letter in the word. Example:
 - TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More
 - SOAP: Sit up, Open your mind to new ideas, Apply yourself, Positive comments only (*This was created by a class of seniors last year. All year long they told each other to remember their SOAP!*)
- Have students "sign" the norms and commit to following them

Emphasize Engagement

Engagement is important in any classroom, but it is even more vital to success in an online classroom.

The article [Lesson Plans that Increase Student Engagement](#) (updated for online learning) has some great tips on how to plan engaging lessons in an online class.

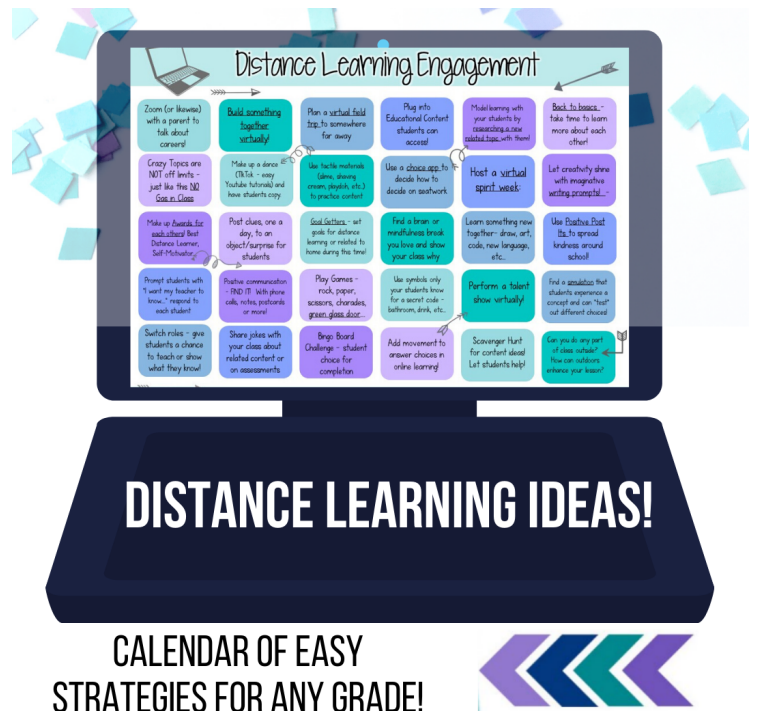
AVID strategies that increase engagement:

- Socratic Seminars
- Philosophical Chairs
- Focused Note Taking
- Interactive Notebooks
- Collaborative Study Groups

If you have a myAVID account, click [HERE](#) for more information on each strategy. If you don't have one but you would like one, contact me!

Tech tools that increase engagement:

- [Padlet](#)
- [Nearpod](#)
- [Pear deck](#)
- [Flipgrid](#)
- [Google Jamboard](#)



Click [HERE](#) for the image above!

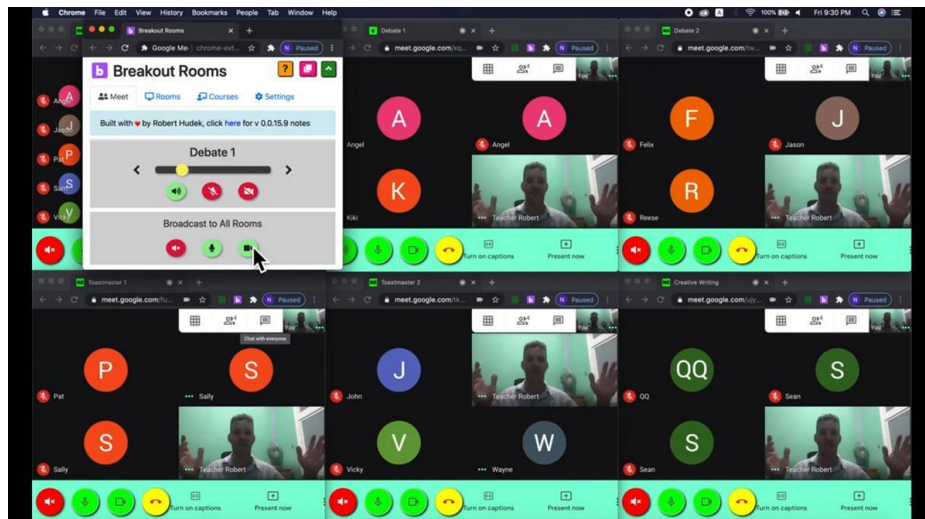
Create Connections in Small Groups

Students, like all of us, are starved for personal connections right now. Whole class meetings help create a sense of normalcy. But it's hard to have meaningful online conversations with 30 people.

Breakout Rooms are the solution! You can place students into smaller groups so they can work collaboratively and have time to build relationships with one another.

Google Meet now has a breakout room feature making it even easier to implement. Click [HERE](#) to read more about how to use it!

Need some inspiration? [Here](#) are 10 ideas for using virtual breakout rooms! Some ideas include jigsaw, 4 corners debate, peer editing, and more!



Mr. Rouse shared a wonderful Google Meet Breakout Room extension that is easy to use and has some additional features that are not available in the current Google Meet breakout room feature.

With this extension, you can:

- See every room at once on your screen
- Be present in every room at the same time
- Mute and unmute each room so you only hear one conversation at a time
- Talk to every room at once
- Create permanent links to breakout rooms. Links stay constant each time you use it.

You can find the extension [here](#)!

Have you used breakout rooms? Let us know your tips!

Celebrate Success

Celebrate every success - no matter how small the success is! Every step forward is a step in the right direction! Don't forget to stop and take time to acknowledge students' efforts. Small victories are still victories - turning on a camera for 5 seconds, volunteering to speak first, joining the meet on time, remembering to click "turn in" on an assignment are **all worth celebrating!**



Ways to celebrate students:

- Dancing Animals! Students pick a number and a dancing animal is displayed! Click [HERE](#) to see more!
- Post announcements in the classroom stream celebrating students
- Run a contest and celebrate the winner
- Use rewards to motivate such as homework passes and extra credit
- Send "good news" notes home by mail
- Acknowledge birthdays! Sing happy birthday as a class, send a birthday card home, post birthdays in the stream.
- Send positive emails to students and parents

