

Strategies Used at SHS to Positively Influence the “State of Students”

Compiled at the 25 October 2011 staff meeting

1. Have a positive attitude yourself
2. Smile
3. Be cheesy
4. Give food
5. Praise, even the little things
6. Know and use the students name
7. Ask not important stuff to gain access to the important stuff
8. Explicitly share what you're noticing, "It seems like there is some confusion..."
9. Know what they like and bring their attention to that
10. Laugh about something
11. Talk one on one with the student
12. Be willing to change your lesson if it is creating a negative vibe
13. Say something motivating like, "This is hard, but I know you can do it"
14. Always ask: "How is the day is going?" "Are you Ok?" "What's up?" "What's going on?"
15. Encourage expression
16. Ask everyone to take a deep breath
17. Clap after presentations
18. Give complements
19. Make it OK to be wrong
20. Drop quick hints of upcoming fun activities in class
21. Change the pace of a routine; add in a movement activity or re-group in a quick way
22. Validate ideas (even if they surprise you). For example, "I like what you said because..."
23. Overtly tell them they need to, "Get out a pen, calculator, positive attitude and smile."
24. Tell a story that engages them
25. High five your neighbor if/when you are done
26. Focus on the positives and what IS working
27. Change the topic momentarily to something they are interested in
28. Change seats
29. Ask students to turn to their neighbor and greet them
30. Make hard things seem obvious
31. Sing!
32. Add humor: tell a joke, show a comic
33. Give students a choice
34. Take a stretch break
35. Ask students to give a gauge of their feelings (1-5 or thumbs up, middle, down) and respond to it
36. Tell a personal story about something going on in class. The tone changes if you "confide" in them
37. Call on the student and ask a question you know they will get right
38. Start each class everyday with music. Whenever possible, connect it to the lesson and something happening in students lives/around school/in the world
39. Use entry tasks that require students to reflect on their own well being and "state"
40. Listen
41. Remember things about their personal life
42. Greet students at the door
43. Gallery walks to share all student projects; at the end ask if they notices how different everyone's project was and say that's exactly what was wanted
44. Use word brainstorms; kids circle up and are given a topic. Each student shares the first word that comes to mind. Everyone is included and they love it.
45. Use movement to get the class active.
46. Sleepy class? Everyone does jumping jacks!
47. If a student is clearly not in a positive state, ask: "Do you need some time for yourself?"