

NHA Teacher Toolkit

Practical tools for your first year of teaching and beyond.



At National Heritage Academies, we know that great teaching makes all the difference in the lives of students. Our schools are structured to ensure that teachers are successful at job #1: student learning. We believe that classroom management, parent communication and student engagement are crucial to student success. These factors are also instrumental to ensuring your success as an educator. The cards in this kit are designed to help you in the classroom during your first year of teaching and beyond. They are our gift to you as a part of National Heritage Academies' commitment to "Challenging each child to achieve..."

Find out more. Visit us at...
www.nhacareers.com

Together, we impact a life



Classroom Management

National Heritage Academies focuses on establishing an intentional climate and culture that is characterized by the school caring for each student as a family does for its children. Our goal is to develop self-managed classrooms. The techniques on the cards that follow help teachers to foster the intentional classroom climate and culture needed to promote great instruction to support outstanding student learning.



Classroom Management

Attention Getter

Give Me 5: Hold up your hand to signal your students to do the same. When hands are up, your students' voices are off and eyes are on you as the teacher.



Classroom Management

Attention Getter

1-2-3, Eyes on Me: Call out this phrase to your students and ask them to chant back in unison:

“1-2, eyes on you.”



Classroom Management

Attention Getter

Clapping: Clap a pattern and ask your students to repeat it. This can be done a few times with different patterns until your students are quiet and focused on you.



Classroom Management

Routine

Warm-Up Activity: Your students need to know how to begin the day. They should have a consistent routine to follow plus a blackboard activity to get them seated and focused while others are getting prepared.



Classroom Management

Routine

Pencil Sharpening: Establish expectations for your students concerning when pencil sharpening should occur and how many pencils can be sharpened at a time.



Classroom Management

Routine

Homework: Set up a designated place for homework to be submitted and a place for absent students to retrieve work. Your students should know where, when and how to go about these routines.



Classroom Management

Reward System

Sticker Charts: Give each of your students a sticker when pre-determined expectations are met. These stickers should be tallied and counted toward a bigger reward for the entire class.



Classroom Management

Reward System

Marble Jar: Place a large, clear jar on your desk. Each time your class meets or exceeds expectations, a marble is put in the jar. When the jar is filled, a class reward is earned.



Classroom Management

Reward System

Money: Award play money to individual students for meeting expectations in your classroom. This money can be used at a school or classroom store.



Parent Engagement

Teachers at National Heritage Academies focus on developing positive relationships between the school and home. This takes a conscious and consistent effort. The techniques on the cards that follow provide ideas for developing positive parent communications.



Parent Engagement

Positive Phone Calls

1. Call every parent within the first week of school to introduce yourself and to build rapport.
2. Call when the student is doing well.
3. Call to personally invite parents to volunteer and to attend school and classroom events.



Parent Engagement

Quick Notes Home

1. Send a welcome postcard to each of your students prior to school starting.
2. Create a note template and have a section for good news.
3. Staple the note to each student's folder or agenda to make sure his/her parents see it.
4. Supplement notes home by emailing pictures of classroom activities to parents.



Student Engagement

We define student engagement as on-task behavior and student discourse. The techniques on the cards that follow provide a variety of interesting tactics to encourage student participation and foster student engagement in your classroom.



Student Engagement

Get To Know You

Top 5 Things About Me: Have your students trace their hand and write something about themselves on each finger of the drawing. Then, have students share as a whole group.



Student Engagement

Get To Know You

Brown Bag: Ask your students to bring 5-10 items in a brown paper bag that represent themselves. Have each student share his/her items with the class.



Student Engagement

Get To Know You

Name Game: Have each student toss a ball to others while standing in a circle. As the ball is caught, the student will repeat the name of the person who tossed it to him/her.



Student Engagement

Proper Listening Techniques

S-L-A-N-T: an acronym used to prepare students for active listening and participation. Place S-L-A-N-T on a large poster in your classroom and every time you say, “I need you to SLANT,” your students can follow these directions:

- S** - Sit up straight
- L** - Listen
- A** - Ask and answer questions
- N** - Nod your head
- T** - Track the speaker



Student Engagement

Student Partnering

Popsicle Sticks: Draw matching shapes on multiple sets of popsicle sticks. Have each student draw a stick to match with another student. You can also include matching stickers on each stick.



Student Engagement

Student Partnering

Clock Partners: Use small paper clocks with only 12, 3, 6, and 9 labeled. Your students may choose their own partners or you can choose for them. Each student should write the name of a partner below each time listed, so when the teacher calls out, “Work with your 3 o’clock partner,” students know who that is. The paper clocks should be taped into agendas or folders so they are not lost.



Student Engagement

Student Partnering

Birthday Partners: Start with the month you are in and ask students to stand if their birthday is in that month. Partner those who share the same month, and move on to the next months.



NHA Teacher Toolkit

Together, we can impact a life. Join us and offer students a chance to grow personally and academically. Find out more information about an NHA school in your area at:

www.nhacareers.com

or call toll free 866-825-8671

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