Breakout Room 1: Creating a Kind Classroom

Aspects that lead to kindness

- Culture
  - Interactions between grades/kids (tricky in Covid times to build community)
  - Communicate that you care about them as individuals
  - Create a space where you can joke/have good times and serious times

- Relationships

Strategies to build kindness

- Gave first 5-7 minutes of each class to talk with each other (to help connect in-person and at-home kids)
- Communicate clearly that they are making choices for their own consequences (you are in control of your situation)
- Approach it from an "I will support you" while pushing them to think about the different components of a decision
- Apologize when you have had a bad day...let them realize you are a real human person too

- Use a lot of humor
  - Community Norms / Codes of Conduct with gentle reminders throughout year
  - Not holding grudges when the problems come up
  - Not judging them, honoring them
  - Have kids do exit slips on us. What liked about lesson? What wished I would do differently next time?
Addressing learning losses without compromising standards

Big Question - what do we want Schools to do now that is different than the past?

Pushing back... I don't think there has been a learning loss.

Agree - more like a learning postponement.

Agree -- we haven't determined what was "lost" in comparison to prior years.

"Learning Loss" does not consider what new thinking and learning skills that they have developed, and not allow constant alone to be the metric.

In person rules placed on virtual environments may be limiting to learning.

Testing as a measure of learning during a pandemic is not adaptable to me. It is a new world that we are facing now.

Students may not allow us to go back to the Before Times model of schooling. Their new skills in self-efficacy will be a tipping point of pushing the envelope.

Different aspects of science may be difficult to teach virtually. Physical properties, for instance - it can be hard to get the information across.

I wonder how much of the "learning loss" is attributable, at least in part, to diminished class time due to fewer class hours because of Zoom fatigue...

What have I learned in the last year that I will take forward that is effective, and what shall I leave behind?

Consider differences between all virtual, hybrid, face-to-face - is the "loss" the same for all? Was the "loss" from this year or last year?

The learning gap/divide will show us which students need support and which do not.

Is there any growth across modalities? And how long each student spent in each modality.

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There will definitely be the need to revisit many things that needed that 1-to-1 time. And also honoring what new learning they do have to contribute to the learning.

Are we confusing compliance with comprehension, in the absence of engagement?

Socio-emotional learning, resilience - these are some take-away messages.

Is the question more about learning gaps between Virtual and In-person?

If you spend a lot of time trying to "catch-up," are you missing an opportunity to move forward?

Is the "learning loss" really a social learning loss? Especially with middle school boys?
Strategies to develop more inclusive classrooms (minimize biases and inequalities including technological challenges)
Examples of successful collaborations between informal and formal educators
Best practices in hybrid teaching experiences