

TEAM BUILDING AND VISIONING

Activities



FOR STAFF PD DAYS

These step-by-step activities will help you build relationships, gather input from staff, and create a mission statement for your campus.

Building Relationships

Help new staff feel welcome and give teams the opportunity to get to know each other better through this fun activity.

Little Known Facts- Online

1. Randomly assign breakout rooms of two people each on Zoom or another videoconferencing platform.
2. Participants will introduce themselves and share a Little Known Fact (LKF) about themselves with their partner. (Ex. I've never broken a bone or I love to hula hoop.)
3. Repeat this a few more times, assigning different breakout rooms of two to three people.
4. For an additional round, combine one original group of two with another original group to make a group of four people. Repeat all previous information *and* share a goal for the year.
5. The outcome for this activity is for participants to make connections with each other, so the discussion and debrief is critical in the virtual environment.

Little Known Facts- In Person

1. Participants put their LKF (without their name) on a post-it note and put it on a piece of chart paper in the room.
2. Give each person a LKF that isn't their own.
3. Participants mingle about the room, asking others if the LKF belongs to them. (Ex: Were you a synchronized swimmer in high school? Did you climb Mt. Everest?)
4. Once all are "found," make a circle with the group and share LKF and connections.
5. Additional option: Ask participants to put themselves in a straight line according to years of experience in teaching. Then ask them to huddle up with three others near them to share their own little known fact *and* a goal they have for the year.

Reflecting and Gathering Input

Get a pulse on what your staff thinks and plan for the upcoming year through these activities.

Chalk Talk- Online

1. Prepare four Jamboards titled: Things that went well last year, biggest challenges last year, hopes for this year, and concerns for this year.
2. Divide the group by alphabet into four groups, and assign each group a Jamboard to start with where they add their thoughts in 3-5 minutes.
3. Remind staff that this is a silent activity designed for all to have a voice. Play quiet music if desired.
4. Assign a different Jamboard to the groups until all have contributed to the four boards. Emphasize the building of the "conversations" with each change of groups.
5. Close with a whole group discussion of trends/highlights.

Chalk Talk- In Person

1. Use chart paper or butcher paper posted in four areas of the room, one with each of these titles: Things that went well last year, biggest challenges last year, hopes for this year, and concerns for this year.
2. Participants may move at their own pace about the room, answering the questions in writing, using a pen or marker.
3. Remind staff that this is a silent activity designed for all to have a voice. Play quiet music if desired.
4. Close with a whole group discussion of trends/highlights.

Campus Vision and Mission

Whether you are refining your vision and mission or doing it for the first time, use this activity to start the process.

Core Values & Belief Statements- Online

1. Share the document *Core Values and Belief Statements* with participants.
2. Give individual reflection time for participants to complete the core values and belief statements (individual reflection) exercises.
3. Arrange breakout rooms on Zoom for grade level or other preferred teams.
4. Teams will complete the document *Team Exercise: Aligning Beliefs with Values* together.
5. The leader facilitates consensus among the staff around the development of core values and belief statements for the school.

Core Values & Belief Statements- In Person

1. Arrange seating based on teams who will be working together (grade level, department, etc.).
2. Share a handout of the document *Core Values and Belief Statements* with participants.
3. Give individual reflection time for participants to complete the core values and belief statements (individual reflection) exercises.
4. Teams will work at their table to complete the *Team Exercise: Aligning Beliefs with Values* handout together.
5. The leader facilitates consensus among the staff around the development of core values and belief statements for the school.



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