BUILDING COMMUNITY REMOTELY

Ten Helpful Tips

1 CROWD-SOURCED PLAY LIST

At the beginning of the school year, ask each staffulty (staff + faculty) member to submit a designated number of their favorite songs. Administration can choose a sampling of staffulty submitted songs to play as staffulty log into virtual staff meetings. Teachers can request the same for students in their classes and shuffle a sampling of student submitted songs every day the virtual class meets. Always share who submitted the songs played each time as a means of highlighting each person's individuality, personality, and interests.

2 MAINTAIN RITUALS & ROUTINES

Continue to broadcast morning announcements - include a joke of the day, shout-outs to both staffulty and students for specific accomplishments, and reminders and insights for the day. Do this at the school level, but also encourage teachers to do daily classroom announcements as well. Daily touchpoints are critical to an ongoing sense of community.

3 HOST A VIRTUAL TOUR

Even if students are learning remotely, it is important for them to feel part of a physical space shared by a group of people. A fun and energizing video tour of your school and a virtual introduction to your school's staffulty members can create an anchor of attachment to your school community, even if learning is virtual.

4 VIRTUAL GREETINGS

Since High Five Fridays are not feasible during distance learning situations, implement a different form of virtual greetings each week. Announce at the beginning of the week the desired greeting (air high fives, throwing up peace signs, funny face challenge, favorite dance move, etc.) and have students and staffulty submit videos/photos of themselves performing that greeting. Compile and release at the end of each week.

5 SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHTS

Two necessary components for building community are meeting people where they are and sharing your story. Utilizing social media - to post all the positive things taking place through your school and all the great staffulty and students that create your school community - is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to build community during distance learning.