

*Message and recommended activities by: Silas, Janiah and Marisa (Members of our Youth Leadership Council)*

Relationship building throughout the school year is crucial to having a healthy classroom. It allows connections to be built between teachers and students and, students and students, and helps to make a good classroom dynamic. Even though many teachers already do getting-to-know-each other activities in the first week of school, it is important to continue them throughout the year so students can create a deeper bond with their teacher and classmates and feel more comfortable sharing more of who they really are! Instead of jumping right into rules or work, it will be more beneficial to take the time to get to know and welcome students! It's important for teachers to participate in activities, as well, so students can also get to know YOU. These are a few of our favorites.

## Favorite Song

Everyone in the class anonymously writes their favorite song on a piece of paper, and all of the songs are put into a bucket. The songs are then picked randomly. Play a part of song to the class. Then have others guess whose song it is. These songs can also be used to create a class playlist for the school year.

**SEL Targets:** Self Awareness, Relationship skills.

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## Like Me

Each student shares something about themselves by saying "Stand up if you are like me and ..." (examples: you love pizza or you play a sport or you traveled this summer)

**SEL Targets:** Relationship skills, Self-awareness, Social awareness.

For more 

## Concentric Circles

As a get-to-know-each-other strategy, Concentric Circles gives students the opportunity to connect one-on-one with a number of different students, to listen, share and get to know each other as people. If you want to include student voice and choice, invite students to submit questions for this activity.

### Possible Questions:

- What do you think is the biggest challenge in education right now?
- If there was a book, movie or show about your life, what would it be called? What would the reviews say about it?
- What is your favorite tv show/movie? Why? Or what was the last tv show you binged? Would you recommend it? Why or why not?
- If you won the Powerball 2 billion dollar prize and decided to give half of it away to an organization or cause, who/what would you give the money to? Why?
- What is the album/song you listen to on repeat? What do you most love about it?
- What is your favorite thing to do in your free time? What brings you joy?
- Tell your partner about your favorite teacher and what made them your favorite.
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Which cartoon character would you like to be best friends with?
- If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
- What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you?
- What would you do if you were a superhero for a day?
- What would you do if you were invisible for a day?
- What would you do if you could time travel?
- Imagine you are the president of the United States. What are three laws you would pass? Why?

**SEL Targets:** Relationship skills, Self-awareness, Social awareness.

