

Favorite Tips and Ideas

For cultivating classroom community:

- Use bulletin boards and wall space to display student-generated work. Rotate the displays often so that all students have a chance to be represented.
- Make students responsible for maintaining certain areas of the classroom, so they understand it is not just *my* classroom, but *our* classroom.
- Allow students to create content for the classroom web site.
- Promote “respect for all” through the classroom policies and procedures.
- Encourage all students to participate in classroom activities and discussions, and provide positive feedback for all who do.

For communicating with parents and peers:

- Gather parent email addresses and use a mailing list to send out announcement they need to see. I will be prudent in the use of the list, so parents don't perceive messages from me as “junk mail”.
- Create a classroom web site. Info on my classes, homework, etc will be posted there. If possible, I'd also like to post an occasional audio and/or video recording of my classes in action.
- Make sure that I send notes to parents when their child has done something good, not just when there has been a problem.

For addressing individual students needs:

- Use technology (web sites, computer programs, etc) to make it easier to individualize guided practice, homework, and tests
- Use informal assessment tools, such as learning style inventories, or surveys, to get to know the strengths and weaknesses of individual students
- Make use of resources available from the school system, such as ESOL teachers, special ed teachers, at-risk coordinators, intervention specialists, etc for instruction and materials on addressing individual needs
- Make sure I attend every SST and IEP meeting.
- Create options whenever possible, so that students can choose the options that best fit with their needs and desires.

For setting up my classroom:

- Please see Section 3, “Organizational Ideas”