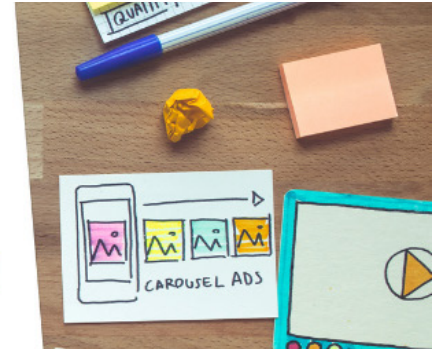




DIGITAL LEARNING



Engagement Tips for Teachers

General Engagement

- Remain upbeat and energetic as much as possible. Kids mimic the teacher's mood.
- Provide frequent breaks (good for all ages, but especially elementary school). Make students get up out of their chairs using music, videos, etc.
- One teacher organized the class into four houses using a personality quiz. The students compete against the other houses. They meet separately in Zoom. It gives them a social life. It also encourages them to perform well so that their team can win. They don't want to let down their team members by not being on time or turning in assignments.
- Have students write little stories about something that happened to them, and have the other guess who it is.
- Play relaxing music during independent work, and energizing music at the beginning of the day or during breaks.
- Remain flexible, and in tune to individual student situations.
- Incorporate movement as a way for students to praise each other, participate in an activity, demonstrate a skill, etc.
- Allow them to get out of their seats for a little breaks every so often.
- Discuss current events (from a Civics teacher).
- Allow students to participate using their microphone or the chat, based on their preference.

Academic Strategies

- Make learning fun.
- Ask questions of the kids to make sure they are participating and paying attention.
- Use a variety of tools vs. just talking/lecturing. Examples include: Kahoot, GoNoodle, Peardeck, Seesaw, Whiteboard.com, etc.
- Keep in mind the techniques that the kids were taught in person, and acknowledge if they can be replicated in a digital environment. For example, some kids were taught to underline passages of text, which is difficult to do online. In this case, it may be better to allow them to print out the assignment.
- Utilize breakout rooms in Zoom to allow students to work in small groups. This also allows teachers to work with students in small groups.
- Allow the students to be creative with PowerPoint, Google slides, etc.
- Provide instructional materials in advance for kids to review and print out if needed.
- Use the whiteboard/annotation feature in Zoom.
- Don't use Zoom the entire time; Allow time for the camera to be off to give students a break from the constant virtual stimuli.
- Make sure presentations are visually stimulating.

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Digital Learning

Engagement Tips for Teachers, cont.

Academic Strategies, cont.

- Share the specific schedule with the students. First review words, then read a story, then complete an activity to go with the story, so they know what's coming and how many things the class will do together.
- Pool popsicle sticks to ensure that every child has a chance to respond to questions each day.
- Vary the activities as much as possible so the students don't grow bored with one single activity.
- Create virtual Math manipulatives online.
- Use learning video with songs to reinforce what is taught (blazer fresh rap songs, flocabulary etc).
- Use websites where the students can annotate in real time.
- Use a variety of ways to answer questions - chat box, show wipe off board, zoom reactions.
- Share screens, give students remote control.
- Do demonstrations via Zoom.

Organization

- Be clear and concise with directions, especially with younger kids.
- Organize assignments in Canvas to make it easy for students to find and turn them in.
- Use established routines and procedures.
- Use IXL live view to monitor students.
- Have students write down assignments in their school planner.
- Maintain and update Canvas on a regular basis.
- Keep Digital Academy and brick and mortar students on the same timeline.

Social Emotional Learning

- Ask students to say encouraging words to themselves and each other at the beginning of each class.
- Call students to see how they are doing.
- Encourage open communication with students.
- Spend about 5 minutes a day with a check in for students.
- Use Headspace, which is free for teachers.

Socialization

- Schedule times for the Digital Academy students to eat lunch together via Zoom.
- Allow students to chat with each other freely a few times a day - through chat, voice or both
- Allow time during class for the brick and mortar and Digital Academy students to interact.
- Provide time for students to talk through lunch or recess.

Thank you to the teachers in Alachua County who shared these useful tips! Follow ACCPTA on [Facebook](#) or join our [group](#) for more information and to collaborate with other families.

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