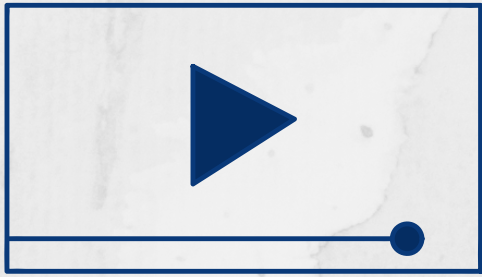


# BUILDING COMMUNITY REMOTELY

## Ten Helpful Tips

1

### 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 staffuly members can create an anchor of attachment to your school community, even if learning is virtual.

2

### MAINTAIN RITUALS & ROUTINES

Continue to broadcast morning announcements - include a joke of the day, shout outs to both staffuly 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

### CROWD SOURCED PLAY LIST



At the beginning of the school year, ask each staffuly member to submit a designated number of their favorite songs. Administration can choose a sampling of staffuly submitted songs to play as staffuly 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.

4

### VIRTUAL GREETINGS

Since High Five Fridays are not feasible during distance learning situations, implement a different form 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 staffuly 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 staffuly and students that create your school community - is one of the cheapest and most effective ways to build community during distance learning.



# BUILDING COMMUNITY REMOTELY

## Ten Helpful Tips

### 6 ADULT SUPPORTERS



Not every student has two parents or a biological parent at all in their life. Start replacing the term 'parents' with the phrase 'adult supporter'. Make positive contact with adult supporters of students early and often. Keep them informed, brag on their students, let them know what to expect from the adults, processes, and expectations within the school.

### 7 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Host monthly or quarterly community fun nights, inviting staff, students, adult supporters, and other community members to interact and have fun in a purely social setting. Ideas for virtual community fun nights include bingo, scavenger hunts, trivia contests, dance parties, talent shows, slam poetry sessions, student work/art displays, etc.



### 8 STAFFULTY SOCIALS

Staffulty morale is the foundation of school culture. If staffulty morale is suffering, so will your school culture and sense of community. Schedule regular virtual meetings for your staffulty that are purely social check-ins by nature. An alternative would be to designate the first few minutes of every staffulty meeting to team building and informal conversations. Put staffulty coffee breaks or tea talks on the calendar and allow your staffulty to socialize and check in with one another without talking about school or task lists.

### 9 OFFICE HOURS

School administrators, counselors, bookkeepers, instructional leaders, media center specialists, and technology department personnel should set and maintain consistent and frequent office hours so that staff, students, and adult supporters have opportunities to communicate and seek assistance when needed. Teachers, aides, and assistants should do the same for the students on their class rosters and their adult supporters.



### 10 BRAGS AND BACKGROUNDS

Distance learning does not necessitate the removal of staff and student recognition opportunities - it may just require new fun ways to brag on each other. Implement digital learners of the week in each class or grade level and provide customized Student of the Week JPEG for that student to use as their background when logging in to virtual class meetings. You can do the same with staff and virtual staff meetings.