

NOTE TO SELF

How will you establish (or reestablish) relationships with students in a distance learning environment? We've started a list for you. How will you personalize it to your context?

Teacher Empathy

How do students seek connections with you?

- Begin synchronous and asynchronous lessons with a positive affirmation (e.g., favorite quotes, a silly joke, short video messages).
- Establish virtual office hours for students to drop in for academic support.
- Host short check-in conferences with families and the student to see how they are doing and what they need.
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Unconditional Positive Regard

How will your students know you care about them as people?

- Weave into lessons what you have learned about students' pursuits through interest surveys.
- Provide polls for students to respond to at the end of class meetings.
- Use voice feedback tools on student work so they can hear the sparkle in your voice, rather than read your words without context.
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Genuineness

How will your students know you care about yourself as a professional?

- Dress and groom professionally.
- Project a demeanor that is optimistic about them and you.
- Make it clear in words and actions that this is a place for learning about themselves, the world, and each other.
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Nondirectivity

How will your students know you hold their abilities in high regard?

- Hold individual conversations with students to help them identify their strengths, goals, and growth areas.
- Ask questions that mediate the student's thinking, rather than asking leading questions.
- Use shared decision-making about curriculum with students.
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Encouragement of Critical Thinking

- Foster discussion among peers using questions that open up their thinking.
- Every distance learning session includes opportunities for students to write about, illustrate, or discuss their thinking with peers.
- Build choice and relevance into assignments and projects.
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