

IF you have a RIGOROUS classroom and positively motivate your kids the growth they make will be endless!!!!!!

Ways to Positively Motivate Kids
(Proven to Work 😊)

- 📍 In the middle of class, have a kid give his/her parent a **good** call.
 - E.g. "Wow, Cole, I love the way you underlined where you found your answers to the questions in the selection. Go call your mom and tell her you did a great job using your reading strategies." Be sure to say it loud enough so that the whole class hears you...every other kid will start to do the same...hoping they will get to call next.
- 📍 Give yourself a pat on the back.
- 📍 Shake your buddy's hand and say, "You are AWESOME!"
- 📍 Buy a pack of great effort, etc. awards...hang three up on the board at the beginning of the day. Read the awards to the kids...tell them that you are looking for three kids to send them home with today. Find one kid to write it out for in the morning, one around lunch, and one before you go home...that way you can refer to it all day and keep them working toward it all day.
- 📍 Buy a notepad shaped like a frog, monkey, dog, etc. and hand out "frog" awards. (The awards are called whatever the shape of the notepad.) Whenever a kid does something you like e.g. uses manners, ties their own shoe, covers their mouth when they cough, uses strategies, works out a math problem, did well on an AR test...tell them they earned a "frog" award. Have them write their name on the board and during specials you can write out the frog awards OR they can write out the award and you sign it.
- 📍 Assign kids "cheerleaders." A cheerleader is a kid in your class who is naturally positive and encouraging. Tell the cheerleader they are cheering for _____ (pick a kid who needs positive reinforcement.) The cheerleader's job is to randomly tell the kid they are doing a great job, they like their answer, help them when they see them struggling, etc. BUT they can NOT tell they are a cheerleader. The goal is to have every kid be a cheerleader for someone in your class.
- 📍 Create a student cheer when kids do excellent work. The whole class chants the cheer for the child.
 - E.g. Way to go Cole, Way to go, Whoo, Whoo!
- 📍 Create "Super Star" hats (sun visors) that kids decorate themselves...they keep them at school and put on daily when they demonstrate they are a Super Star. The way to be a Super Star is to demonstrate critical thinking, use strategies, put forth best effort, etc.
 - FYI...The theory behind the Super Star hat was that the kids shined so brightly, they had to put on the sun visor just so we could see them. You could use sunglasses.

- Ⓢ When a kid who typically fails everything does better than normal on an assignment...meaning he/she received a "C" instead of a "D", etc.... take them to the principal to show off **good** work. Hopefully, the principal has a special pencil to give him/her. The following week, do the same OR have him/her make a **good** call home.
- Ⓢ Create a weekly lunch club (must collaborate with another teacher.) Choose the most difficult concept for the most stubborn handful in your class; mine were reading strategies, so I created a strategy club with my principal (that was the teacher I chose to collaborate with). I told my 5 kids they were so lucky to be chosen as part of the strategy club. Once a week they got to each lunch with the principal if they used their reading strategies on selections. During the week, the principal would ask them if they were using the strategies when she saw them in the hall. On Fridays, they would take their reading selections to lunch with her and proudly show how they used the strategies. They did not always have good grades or use them correctly...she would re-teach that during lunch.

 - You could create a good manners club for kids who bully, great effort club for kids who are lazy, homework club for kids who do not do their homework, etc.
- Ⓢ "Get your name in the BAG"- have the kids OR you bring in dollar store prizes and hang them on a bulletin board. In the middle of the board staple up a BAG (Best All Around Growth). During the day declare different activities as BAG activities. If the kids perform the way you declare, give them a piece of cut up construction paper to write their name on, and drop it in the bag. At the end of the day/week, pull out 1, 2, 3 names and those children get to chose a prize from the board.
- Ⓢ Buy a box of popsicles and keep it in the school freezer. Hand them out randomly in class...e.g. "Cole, you worked out that math problem two different ways. Not only that, you explained it to us like a mathematician. I am so proud of you! So proud, I am going to give you a Popsicle at lunch today!"

 - The rest of the class will be dying to be mathematicians. Let them know that they all will get an opportunity to earn a Popsicle throughout the month, etc.
- Ⓢ To get the quiet/shy kid to come out of his /her shell- have him/her stand on their chair with their arms in the air and shout, "I'm the man!" OR "I'm the Woman!" At first they will be leery, other kids will ask to do it and after they do, the quiet kid will and eventually will do it freely and become confident.
- Ⓢ Choose a kid to be the "teacher." That child will come up to the front of the room and teach the class how they solved their problem, ask the class questions, the students ask the "teacher" questions. Every kid becomes excited and puts forth great effort when you say, "This is a "teacher" question." They all must demonstrate how they solved the problem before you call someone up to "teach."

 - If a "teacher" gets stuck they can call on a "teacher assistant" for help. When finished, the whole class claps and compliments certain aspects of the "teachers" abilities. E.g. I like how you drew a picture to show the multiplication problem.

- ☉ When a kid does something to be proud of, have him/her stand on their chair, rest of class stands up (on floor) and gives the kid a rock star cheer.
- ☉ As a reward, allow a kid to read a book aloud to your class or class of choice...OR bring in item for show-n-tell...OR tell a joke to the class (Highlight magazine has jokes that kids like)

Creating Family Atmosphere

- ☉ Classroom motto, "We are a Family."
- ☉ Do not tolerate kids being disrespectful to one another.
- ☉ When playing games in class, non-winning team tells winning team, "Congratulations." Winning team tells non-winning team, "Thank you for playing the game."
 - Winning team gets prize and makes a decision if they want to keep the prize for their team or share with non-winning team...they always decide to share.
- ☉ Create a classroom goal (choose something your whole class is struggling with)...*"When everyone in the class reaches _____ we can have a pajama, popcorn, and movie day."* (Be sure the day you have it falls on the day you complete a novel and you watch the movie to the novel. Also, send home a note before hand explaining to parents about the pajama day and what appropriate pajamas include.)
- ☉ **Compliment BROWNIES**...print out 10 brownie pictures and laminate. When you pick the class up from a special, have the teacher give you a class report. If ALL kids have a good report the class earns a Compliment BROWNIE. Choose a kid to tape the Compliment BROWNIE to the board. When the class earns all 10 BROWNIES, make brownies for them. To make it more challenging, the kids' behavior must have been so great that the compliment was given freely; you should not have to ask for a report.
- ☉ **Cooperative Groups**- Assign cooperative groups, write the names of the group members on the outside of brown lunch bags and hang around the classroom. Print out 10 ice cream, candy bar pictures, etc. per group.
 - As the kids work in their cooperative groups daily, they are trying to earn one picture. They earn a picture by working together without arguing, working as a team, helping each other, staying on task, completing their work, etc.
 - As they earn pictures, they put them in their bags. When they earn 10 pictures they receive that reward.

High Expectations

- ☺ 3 Mottos I lived by in the Classroom:
 - **Giving up is NOT an Option!**
 - **You WILL try your BEST!**
 - **I will not help you...until you SHOW me you have tried.**
 - If possible, do not give kids answers when they ask for help. Question them to gain understanding as to where they are coming from...lead them into understanding through questions.
- ☺ Question kids...
 - Ask them what is wrong? What is missing? What should they do to correct their work? What could have been a better question? Can anyone think of another way to solve this? Etc.
- ☺ Do not accept minimal work from kids
 - They must **ALWAYS** work out math problems, prove where they found the reading answer, write neatly, whatever your expectations
- ☺ Let the kids know it is ok to take risks and make mistakes... **AND** you/they will continue to try until success occurs because it will occur!
- ☺ Do not be afraid to be silly and act crazy...you will keep the kids on their toes. They will look forward to what you will do or say next.

Most Challenging Kids

- ☺ For the most difficult kid in your class find the adult in his/her life they respect, fear, and do not want to disappoint...that person is your angel! That person may or may not be mom or dad; he/she may be grandpa, grandma, aunt, uncle, or older sibling. They will get through to that child when you can not. Ask child and mom or dad who does the child look up to most or listen to most; can we involve him/her in the child's education? **With permission from parents**, talk to that person, ask for help, invite them to school for lunch with child. Child will know you are going to call that person with good and bad news...their behavior and efforts will improve!
- ☺ Do not **EVER** give up on a child. Even if you have to try something new every day you **WILL** find something that will get through to that child. I promise ☺
- ☺ Finally, when the most trying hateful kid tells you, "I don't want to do it, I don't care." You kindly tell them, "You are a lucky kid because I care about you, I will care for you, and it is not an option not to do your work. Now, sit up, get your pencil in your hand and" Then work through the problem with the kid. Afterwards tell them how proud of them you are for something they did while doing that problem.

Parent Involvement

(Besides the Obvious)

- Ⓢ During parent conferences hand out word lists, AR question stems, reading selections, math word problems, websites, etc. for them to work with their children at home...they may not BUT you gave them the power to do so.
- Ⓢ Flip Video- Flip Video various activities your kids do during the day. Put the videos together as a 25-30 minute movie...invite parents to come during lunch and show the video. You will gain parent support and kids will be extremely proud.

BRAIN BREAKS

- Ⓢ Kids need a brain break! Draw a rectangle on board and call it the **Brain Break** box. Declare an expectation for how a kid will get his/her name in the brain break box that day. (I always did mornings because that was my longest time without a break.) For example, as you check morning work find a kid who did _____ and state, "I love the way you _____. Go put your name in the brain break box." More kids will do the same and you can add more names. Do not put all the names in then. Wait until reading, etc. and look for something different and add more names.
 - Some time in the day, declare as brain break time. Give the kids 10 min to walk the track, do an exercise video, yoga, 5 minute Freddy, 12 Powerful Words video, etc. anything to get them exercising.