SUMMIT K12

10 Ways to Help Newcomers Feel Comfortable in Class

1. Create a welcoming environment

Starting a new school can feel nerve wracking for students. Learning hello in different languages can help create a bond and inspire other students to welcome the new students.

2. Decorate your classroom

Hang posters with welcoming language to greet students at the door. Also, easy-to-read posters can help establish clear expectations in the classroom which foster respect and understanding.

3. Use interactive bulletin boards

Set up bulletin boards that encourage student participation and require engagement. An interactive bulletin board is fun because it can boost student engagement.

4. Create a travel map

Hang a world map for students to add pictures or push pins when they visit a new place. Also, students can use the map to learn about historic landmarks and historical events.

5. Design a giant word search

Practice context skills and find those words! Encourage your students to find phonics sounds, spelling words, or vocabulary words with a fun word activity.

6. Use QR codes

Let the collaborative learning begin. Create a mystery-type bulletin board with QR codes. Students can scan the QR code to get clues to answer questions or use it as a research tool for a class project.

7. Create flexible learning programs

Flexible learning programs and scenarios meet newcomers where they are, while giving students the chance to build foundational skills and thrive.

8. Make personalized nametags

Create personalized name tags for all your students and display them on their desks. This strategy will help you learn names quickly and support students and their peers.

9. Stick to a routine

Predictable schedules can help newcomers understand their new culture. Also, schedules create a sense of boundaries and can help newcomers understand classroom expectations.

10. Celebrate progress

Celebrating progress is essential to all students' self-esteem, confidence, growth, and love of learning.