

## Start school with a R.E.A.L beginning 25 days of learning and building community!

This program is designed to build community connections during the first month of school! This can be done as a class/homeroom or as the entire school. You can choose to do one week or four weeks of community-building activities. See implementation tips below!

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>Welcome Day</b></p> <p>Name games to meet everyone in the classroom. Example: In a circle say your name and make a motion that reflects what you like to do.</p>	<p><b>Create a Class Quilt</b></p> <p>Students write their name and draw pictures of what they like to do. Put them together as a quilt.</p>	<p><b>WOW Wednesday</b></p> <p>School staff share a fun fact about themselves.</p>	<p><b>Student-Created Scavenger Hunt</b></p> <p>Student teams create a list of items other classmates can find in the room.</p>	<p><b>Share Favorite Summer Nature or City Find</b></p> <p>Students can explore and find items or draw them.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>School Spirit Day</b></p> <p>Everyone wears school colors or draws a picture of themselves with the school colors.</p>	<p><b>Celebrate Languages</b></p> <p>Students write "welcome" to post on the door in different languages.</p>	<p><b>WOW Wednesday</b></p> <p>Share a fun fact about your class with the rest of the school.</p>	<p><b>Thankful Thursday</b></p> <p>Share a note with someone at school thanking them.</p>	<p><b>Feel Good Friday</b></p> <p>All students share something they are proud of. Students post positive "I am" statements.</p>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<p><b>Share a Favorite Book</b></p>	<p><b>Reading to Buddy Day</b></p>	<p><b>WOW Wednesday</b></p> <p>Students share a fun fact about themselves during class.</p>	<p><b>Celebrate Together We Can...</b></p> <p>Have every student finish the sentence "Together we can...."</p>	<p><b>Friendly Friday Shout Outs</b></p> <p>Pick a classmate's name out of a jar and write a positive note to or about them.</p>

<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Monday Mention</b> Students in class complete the sentence "I wish my teacher knew...."*	<b>Create a Class Mascot Day</b> Each class creates a mascot.	<b>Wow Wednesday</b> Play class bingo or a fun activity with students' fun facts in their class or with another class.	<b>Thankful Thursday</b> Create a school or class kindness chain with strips that students can add to throughout the month.	<b>Lunch with Others</b> Meet other students: Half of the class sits with students from a different room.
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Selfie Day</b> Create a picture or word collage of how you think you will look by the end of the school year.	<b>Read Aloud with a School or Community Guest</b>	<b>Wow Wednesday</b> Find a classmate you don't know well and create a Venn Diagram of what you have in common and what's unique.	<b>Outdoor School Sing- a-Long or Fall Field Day</b>	<b>Nature or City Day</b> Build a paper nature or city trail in the front hallway using student made/ drawn trees, rocks, buildings and leaves.

## Tips for implementing a spirit and instructional learning incentive program.

- Many of these activities can be easily integrated into the morning meeting routines.
- Schools can also opt to include prizes for the class or grade that has the best participation. Possible prize options include extra art time or popsicles, 20 minutes extra outdoor time, or choosing where in school to eat lunch.
- Please remember, adjustments should be made that take into consideration all student groups (i.e., students with disabilities, cultural differences and social emotional needs). When pairing students together or asking students to write about one another, make sure students understand how to offer positive comments.

\* Monday Mention. This question can lead some students to share traumatic experiences. Teachers should be prepared for this response and consider who on the school staff can help when this occurs. Review ASCD's blog post [Trauma-Informed Teaching Strategies](#).

\*\* Name That Tune. Set some appropriate boundaries and use songs without profanity and put downs.



Visit Attendance Works ([www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)) for strategies, toolkits and downloadable tools to improve student attendance and engagement.