



GREETINGS AT THE DOOR

Greetings at the Door is a practice where educators welcome students as they enter the classroom. It involves acknowledging each student individually, fostering a positive and inclusive environment, and setting the tone for the day. This simple but powerful practice creates opportunities to establish a sense of belonging, build relationships, and create a supportive learning community.

Potential Benefits:

- 12% Decrease in disruptive behaviors (7 min/hour regained)
- 20% Increase in engagement with academic tasks (12 min/hour regained)
- Opportunity to connect with students in a positive fashion, thus strengthening

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS |

- **POSITIVELY CONNECT** with each student using a verbal or nonverbal greeting
- **PROVIDE PRE-CORRECTIVE STATEMENTS** to remind the **whole class** of expected behaviors as they transition into the classroom
- **PRIVATELY PRE-CORRECTING AND ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS** who struggled with their behavior the previous day
- **DELIVER BEHAVIOR-SPECIFIC PRAISE** statements to certain students to reinforce desired behavior

TEACHER

A teacher stands at the classroom door to warmly greet each student by name with a smile and a positive comment, such as "Good morning, Sarah! I'm glad you're here today. Your enthusiasm always brightens our classroom."

More Considerations

All adults can practice checking in with students regularly through warm greetings. For example, the school principal greets students at the main entrance, addressing them individually, asking about their weekend or any upcoming events, and showing genuine interest in their well-being. In a high school setting, a teacher stations themselves at the entrance to greet students as they change classes, using the opportunity to check in, provide encouragement, and establish a supportive atmosphere.



IMPLEMENTATION TIPS |

- **Use a welcoming presence:** Stand at the entrance of the classroom or school building with a warm and inviting demeanor. Be genuine, enthusiastic, and welcoming in your tone and body language
- **Positively connect** with each student, by name, using eye contact and a verbal or nonverbal greeting
- **Provide pre-corrective and encouraging statements** to remind the whole class of expected behaviors and individuals who may have struggled the previous day.
- **Respectful Engagement with Active Listening:** Give students an opportunity to respond or share any thoughts or concerns, and actively listen to their responses.
- **Deliver behavior-specific praise** and positive affirmations to certain students to reinforce desired behavior and set a positive tone for the day.
- **Consistency and inclusivity:** Practice greetings at the door consistently, ensuring that every student is greeted, regardless of their background or circumstances
- **Time management:** Balance the need for individual greetings with the efficient transition of students into the learning environment.

FIDELITY CHECKLIST

The following tool can be used for self-assessment and/or non-evaluative learning walks (e.g., buddy observations, peer observations, coaching observations).

Date	Time		
FEATURE	NO	SOMETIMES	ALWAYS
Welcoming Presence: I maintain a warm and inviting demeanor at the entrance.			
Individual Acknowledgement: I greet each student by name and make eye contact.			
Provide Pre-Corrects and Behavior Specific Praise: I offer personalized and positive messages to uplift students.			
Respectful Engagement: I give students an opportunity to respond and actively listen to their responses.			
Consistency & Inclusivity: I practice greetings at the door consistently and greet every student.			
Time Management: I balance individual greetings with the efficient transition of students.			

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