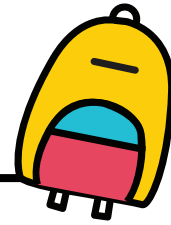


Classroom Connections



Young Kids (Preschool - 3rd Grade)

Create a classroom chain:

1. Cut out strips of construction paper or plain paper.
2. Have each student think of something that they're good at or proud of themselves for. This can be a special talent or a personality trait. Put their name on one side of the paper and their strength/trait on the outside.
3. This could be something like "funny" or "good at math," but it could also be something silly like "loves pizza."
4. Connect the strip together with tape, glue or staples with their name inside and their talent/skill on the outside. Then, loop the next string around the first one to form a chain. String all of them together to decorate your classroom.
5. Remind students that each person brings something to the classroom.

Middle Grades (4th - 8th)

1. Using a posterboard or anchor chart, decide if you want to create a classroom flag, shield or poster.
2. Point out that by recognizing the strengths of each person in the class, you strengthen and protect the whole class through kindness and including everyone.
3. Have each student write or draw something they bring to the class – a talent or skill and passion they have.
4. Hang the poster in a prominent position to remind the class that everyone brings something to the class. If any students are absent when you do this exercise, have them add theirs when they return to school.

High School

1. Ask students to reflect on their strengths and passions. They should each write down 1-3 things that they are proud of about themselves.
2. Ask for any volunteers to share what they wrote down. Have them tack it up on a wall. Invite everyone in the class to add what they wrote until you have a wall full of strengths.
3. Explain that together, your class is stronger because of all of these things that each person brings to the table. Encourage everyone to look at all the items and think about how their classmates contribute.