

Continuing from last week, we’re looking at how to engage students.

The second rule of engagement is to foster a sense of usefulness. When students are faced with challenging activities, they want to know they can succeed. As a CTE teacher, you can foster their sense of usefulness by not jumping too far beyond their skill levels. To avoid going too far, allow students regularly to demonstrate their understanding. You can also allow students to talk through process or procedure (peer modeling) while giving them encouraging feedback.

The third rule is to support students in controlling their own behavior (discipline tip No. 10). CTE teachers should welcome student opinions and ideas in the flow of activities. You can also use informal assessments that guide students while you are assessing if they have absorbed the information. This method will also allow them to see your passion for what you are teaching.

Rule No. 4 embraces the second thing students want most from teachers: the ability to work collaboratively. CTE is all about collaborative communication, which leads to critical thinking and creativity. The job of a CTE teacher is to make sure the students are connecting to other students in the group.

The Rule No. 5 concerns the teacher-student relationship. As the old saying goes, they don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. One of the things students want teachers to do is give them more one-on-one time. Doing so is part of basic classroom management and getting to know your students. You can accomplish this goal by keeping a positive attitude about your students while treating them all honestly and fairly.

The last rule is to promote mastery. This area is where you show your passion as a CTE teacher while making it fun and interesting.

Next week we will look at students who are already disengaged and see how we can re-engage them.