

As we mentioned last week, one of the most important things any teacher can do is to get to know his or her students. This is not a one-time event, but a continuous event over the entire length of the class. This is not only something for you as a teacher to do; the students also need to get to know each other.

Getting to know your students can begin with a bell ringer *[question or activity posted on board or projected on board for students to do as they come into the room].* Using a bell ringer each day will help you establish procedures for entering the classroom.

With bell ringers and any other information you gather from students, they need to know that you are listening to what they are telling you. So start a file to keep information that you learn about your students. The following are some questions you can use as bell ringer questions:

* What is the most useful thing for me to know about you as a student?
* What is an identifying detail? [something that won’t change from day to day]
* What did you like best about your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school? [to be used by freshman teachers or technology centers]
* Why did you choose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CTE class?
* What makes a weekend day great for you?

The questions are only limited by your imagination. Some questions can be short answers, and you can have a couple for students to answer. Some could require a little thought, and you may want to only ask one. The goal with a bell ringer is to keep students engaged until you are ready to start the class.

Next week we will look at other ways to get to know your students.

The link below is a humorous start for your year to let you know you are a hero: [pep talk link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwlhUcSGqgs).

Coming Professional Development events in September: [**Teacher Academy**](https://www.okcareertech.org/educators/professional-development/teacher-academy)**.**