

This week we will continue to look at how you can get to know your students and how your students can get to know you and other students.

Last week we mentioned [bell ringers](https://www.edutopia.org/blog/new-way-deliver-bell-work-lori-desautels) as a way to get to know your students. You do not want to use them every day but as a transition between lessons or lab days. Another way to get to know students is by asking questions for [taking attendance](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/40-Fun-Questions-to-Start-Class-All-Disciplines-Grades-5-12-1904359) rather than just calling roll and hearing students say, “Here.”

[Panorama](https://panorama-www.s3.amazonaws.com/files/get-to-know-you/teacher-guide.pdf) is a website that will attempt to connect your students to you by way of a survey. You take the survey, which is not personal but general questions, and then receive a link for the students to take the survey. The results tell you what likes and dislikes you have in common with your students.

Many teachers use icebreakers to get to know their students. Many [icebreakers](http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/classroom-icebreakers/) do more to make the students irritated and embarrassed, however, and many do not really help the students to get to know each other, so it is important to choose icebreakers that really help you and your students get acquainted in a comfortable and fun way.

There are also [student inventories](https://wvde.state.wv.us/osp/StudentInterestInventory.doc) that allow you to gather basic information like hobbies, nicknames, technology at home, employment and extracurricular activities. It can also be a way to identify allergies or health problems. There are many out there, and several are [free](http://www.niu.edu/eteams/pdf_s/VALUE_StudentInterestInventory.pdf).

You can share some information you have gathered to help the students get to know each other, but with other information, you need to respect the privacy of the students who gave it to you. At the same time, however, you should use the information to connect the students to the lessons you are teaching. The worst thing you can do is to collect this information and file it away and never look at it again. Use a method that will work for you to remember student information and keep it private.

Getting to know your students sounds like a simple thing to do, but unfortunately, we don’t end up putting as much effort into it as we think. We get busy with the day-to-day task of teaching, and relationship-building can fall by the wayside. I strongly encourage you to put a system in place to get to know your CTE students. I will be referring to this throughout the year, and it is one of the most important parts of your job.

Has culture and getting to know your student been helpful? [Click an answer]

[YES](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YYHX36G) [No](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y28JGV6)

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