

"Instructional Support Weekly"

Topic: Keep your students engaged with humor

"Laughter is the best medicine," goes the old saying. Well, it's not a bad teacher, either. Research shows that not only do students enjoy and appreciate good-natured humor from their teachers, but it also makes them more likely to tune in and participate-and less likely to start trouble.

No one expects you to become a comedian and keep your students rolling in the aisles. But try to inject a smile or two where you can.

Here are some guidelines:

Look for ways to incorporate humor into subject matter. For example, choose a humorous book for your next read-aloud.

Remember that humor does not have to be verbal. Arching your eyebrow at students, fixing them with a quizzical look as a smile plays about your mouth, or shaking your head and shrugging your shoulders with an exaggerated sigh can work, too.

Allow students to participate. Provide opportunities for students to share jokes or real-life funny stories with the class. (Have them share with you privately first to be sure they are appropriate.)

Consider your audience. The maturity of your class is a huge factor in the kind of humor you can use, and how much. And of course, never allow sarcastic or hurtful humor in your classroom.

Have a great week!

From the Instructional Support Team at STM

Lonnie Moore, *The High-Trust Classroom: Raising Achievement from the Inside Out*, ISBN: 978-1-59667-104-1 (Franklin Covey, www.franklincovey.com)