Classroom Management for Distance Teaching

Start Slowly

The first week should be focused on *the process of online learning*. Students will need to adjust to the new transition and learn all the new programs being introduced. Start small and avoid assigning too many tasks at once. First, focus on making sure the online learning experience is engaging. You can increase the learning pace once you and your students are comfortable learning online. Eventually, you may find that your students can learn as quickly online as they can in a face to face classroom environment.

Involve Students in Establishing Classroom Norms

Co-create a list of classroom norms with your learners. You may want to give them guiding questions for the discussion. For example: *What is an appropriate work area for distance learning? When and how should we ask questions? Will we use hand signals? etc* In addition to classroom norms, establish expectations for navigating the online environment. Using the [“Grandfather Teachings”](#) as a guide for understanding digital citizenship is an excellent springboard for meaningful classroom discussion. Be aware that norms will evolve, so scheduling a “norms” check-in every Monday can provide structure to each week of online learning.

Emphasize Engagement

Keep whole-group sessions short, no longer than 10 or 20 minutes. Use this time to prepare students for hands-on learning. Students learn more through exploratory activities and problem-solving than they do by absorbing information. Provide incentives, challenges and goals for students in order to keep them motivated.

Create Connections with Small-Group Sessions

Whole class meetings can help create a sense of normalcy, yet it is challenging to have meaningful online conversations with 30 learners. Make sure to schedule time with small groups of students. Set a goal of scheduling a 1-on-1 session with each student *at least* once a month. Students will need extra encouragement during these difficult times and they will need to *set their own goals* to stay motivated. Shift ownership to the students and have them write down their online learning goals, and have them reflect on their progress throughout the process.

Adapted from: https://roomtodiscover.com/online-classroom-management/