

How Do Students “Show Up” in the Classroom?

Directions: Review the three ideas presented here with your mentee and discuss ways to have students visible in the classroom (when they are not in the room!). For practice, you and your mentee can observe several classrooms when students are not there and note the evidence of a community of students being in the room.

1. **Students in the classroom.** What evidence on the walls of the classroom lets an observer know who the students are in this classroom?
 - Visible evidence of students can be demonstrated in many ways. Photos of students on the walls, student work posted, names of students for room chores, wall of fame papers posted (students choose which papers to post), student teams with names listed on the board, etc.).
 - What evidence is visible that students are engaged and learning in this classroom?
 - What evidence is visible that there may be a negative community created by a teacher in this room (i.e., names of misbehaving students on the board)? Discuss how that may not be a respectful approach to managing behavior.
 - Is culture honored in any of these classrooms?

2. **Silent teachers help students learn.** These posters are strategies posted in the physical space for students to see and use during the school day. These helpers can remind a student of a procedure or how to complete an assignment. Observe several classrooms together to see how teachers use these silent teachers to help students learn. Examples might include effort charts, attendance charts, star charts for homework, how to do a math problem, how to edit a paper, etc.

3. **Visible signs of community.** Have you ever walked into a space and it just felt good? What made you feel that? Is there evidence in any classrooms you observe that illustrate that teamwork is encouraged? Or that partners are useful in that classroom? Do you see compliments visibly posted or inspirational quotes? Is there evidence of the teacher’s perspective and personality in this room?

These three ideas are observable in a classroom space. Discuss how you and your mentee can be more intentional about creating your classrooms to include students even when they are not in the room!