100 Tips for Teaching Anything Virtually (Pre-K to Ph.D.)

10 Ways to Rethink the Rules

1. Adapt rules for different situations, contexts, and age groups
2. Relax rules to allow for everyone to feel safe and enjoy learning
3. Allow eating and drinking when folks are hungry or thirsty
4. Rethink homework (isn't all of it HOMEwork?!) and grading policies
5. Allow for flexible and comfortable clothing to be worn - do not require strict dress codes or uniforms (PJs are okay!)
6. Bring your pets to school
7. Allow cameras to be on OR off
8. Allow for people to mute and unmute as desired
9. Allow for flexible start and stop times...allow people to decide when they need a break
10. Examine our biases as they relate to the *establishment* and *enforcement* of rules

10 Ways to Set up Your Space

1. Blankets, pillows, cushions
2. Bubbles (of course)
3. Essential oil diffuser, incense
4. Fans, pinwheels, Fidgets
5. Modeling clay, play dough, gak
6. Natural or mood lighting, lava lamps, sun lamps
7. Paper and colorful markers, pastels, and colored pencils
8. Snacks (crunchy, healthy, soothing)
9. Yoga ball, mat, block, cushion
10. Water - or beverage of choice

10 Ways to Incorporate Movement

1. Go on a scavenger hunt
2. Spelling aerobics
3. Stand up if you think…
4. Play simon says
5. Clap your hands
6. Use hand signals (or sign language) instead of the chat
7. Have a dance break together instead of a break on your own
8. Bend, twist, stretch while standing or sitting
9. Go for a "walk & talk" over the phone or chat with a partner
10. Do a jumping jack, a push up, or stretch each time _____

10 Ways to Take a Break

1. Take a nap
2. Stretch
3. Play an instrument
4. Daydream (preferably outside)
5. Organize, clean something
6. Power walk jog, bike, ride, swim
7. Plant something, dig something
8. Create something
9. Cook something
10. Meander or wander

10 New Skills to Teach

1. How and when to take a break
2. How to write the friendly email
3. What to do if you are confused
4. What to do if technology fails
5. Mute and unmute etiquette
6. How to set an alarm for logging on
7. Body mechanics when sitting in front of a computer
8. How to protect your eyes from the glare of the screen/use headphones to reduce distractions
9. How to use any interactive web-based tool (e.g., how to use a virtual background, how to respond to in the chat, how to move around in breakout rooms)
10. How to rest and renew in between virtual classes/sessions

10 Ways to Improve Communication

1. Overview of expectations verbally and visually
2. Repeat - Repeat - Repeat; Give clear instructions/directions now more than ever
3. Make sure everything is easy to find/well organized in ways that make sense to others
4. Be succinct in your instruction, pause often, check for understanding
5. Be organized in your delivery and the flow of a session
6. Above all else, be consistent, predictable, and create rituals
7. Coordinate with others who are delivering instruction to reduce conflicting directions, multiple things being due on the same day, etc.
8. Use the same web-based technologies/platforms and organizational strategies as everyone else on your team/in your district/organization
9. Prioritize consistency, clarity, and beauty - Think like "Starbucks"
10. Have a public calendar so people know where to go to get due dates

10 Ways to Make Learning More Fun

1. Wear costumes related to the topic
2. Use props that relate to the content
3. Create fun visual backgrounds
4. Ues themes for each day (Trivia Tuesday, Wild hair Wednesday)
5. Play games like ZOOM bingo, I spy (look in other people's backgrounds - virtual or real), charades, etc.
6. Have a virtual talent show
7. Have an artist, or someone who enjoys drawing, draw along with the lesson
8. Create a beautiful journal of learning
9. Design their own choice board
10. Redesign their own learning space

10 Ways to Create Connections

1. Invite people into the meeting one at a time and greet by name
2. Private message in the chat to connect personally
3. Schedule one-on-one or small group time to chat
4. Start a virtual club
5. Have a virtual "lunch bunch"
6. Call or FaceTime outside of "class time"
7. Share something personal that's found in your house
8. Do it the old-fashioned way...send a letter through snail mail
9. Send an e-Card
10. Use FlipGrid to record messages

10 Ways to Use the Chat Feature - To Share by Typing

1. Share thoughts, feelings, ideas questions (e.g., emojis, symbols, words, phrases)
2. Make comments about what others are sharing
3. Make connections about what is being shared
4. Share a link, image, document that relates to the content/conversation
5. Use the "reaction" button
6. Take a poll - vote on an outcome
7. Brainstorm, make a list, generate priorities
8. Fill in the blank, finish a problem, predict an outcome
9. Co-create a poem, a formula, a script
10. Write a positive comment about another learner's contribution

10 Ways to Learn without a Screen

1. Create a poster or collage of printed images, magazine clippings, pictures
2. Write a song, rap, or poem
3. Sculp, build, design
4. Write in a journal
5. Write an article or blog post
6. Create a podcast
7. Talk to someone (without a screen in between)
8. Read printed materials
9. Explore in nature
10. Play! Rough and tumble, open-ended, self-directed