Big Idea/ Topic
Peer Encouragement Routine

Georgia Standards of Excellence Alignment

Health Standard 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES) Alignment

Standard 7 – Positive Learning Environment: The teacher provides a well-managed, safe, and orderly environment that is conducive to learning and encourages respect for all.

Standard 8 - Academically Challenging Environment: The teacher creates a student-centered, academic environment in which teaching and learning occur at high levels and students are self-directed learners.

Instructional Design

Define Simply
Peer encouragement is important in building a positive and collaborative community in the classroom. This learning plan demonstrates instructing students how to address classmates to build positive relationships and a positive learning environment.

Creating a safe community in the classroom and normalizing that struggle is part of learning can be a challenge. This routine creates an opportunity for students to encourage each other, which can also proactively prevent problem behavior such as teasing each other. When a student is processing or thinking before responding, students can “send them magic.” This involves students wiggling their fingers toward the student who is thinking. Teachers can prompt students by saying, “Send Hector some magic.” After a student responds, the class can snap their fingers as a quick recognition of the bravery it takes to answer the question. The student may not have the correct answer, but they were still brave and tried their best. Teachers can prompt students by initiating the “giving of snaps.” The motions can be replaced with other non-verbal signals; giving the class the choice may help encourage participation.

Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Teacher can model both “sending magic” and “giving snaps” with students. Both activities are quick and then we move on to the next thing.
**Practice in All Relevant Settings**
Practice both “sending magic” and “giving snaps” in different locations. This can even be used during PE class to encourage each other with athletic activities.

**Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement**
Teachers can reinforce this behavior by participating and praising students for their teamwork.

**Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach**
Teachers should monitor how these routines are working, and add additional practice and reinforcement whenever needed.

### Evidence of Student Success
- 80% or more of students will participate in encouraging each other without teacher prompts or reminders.

### Student Learning Supports
- This is a universal lesson plan and an effective practice used for struggling students in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) process.
- Some students may need additional support/scaffolding. Consider adapting for the individual needs of the student.

### Engaging Families
- Students may teach their families how to “send magic” when something is difficult and “give snaps” as an encouragement.