Help Yourself···And a Student
5-Min. Professional Development!
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Gifted 207: What Motivates You?

When facing resistant learners, teachers must look closely at what motivates the student to learn. Look beyond trinkets, point sheets, sticker charts, and candy.

Heacox suggests that students are motivated to learn in four areas: Mastery, Purpose, Autonomy, and Belonging.

Mastery

Students who are motivated by mastery have a need for a sense of accomplishment and to be viewed as competent.

The student values...	Then, use this...
Mastery	• Recovery Points [Retesting] • Descriptive feedback • Self-evaluation • Progress charting • "Now that…" rather than "If/Then" rewards • Strategies dealing with setbacks

Autonomy

Students who are motivated by autonomy need a degree of control over what, where, when, and how they will learn.

The student values...	Then, use this...
Autonomy	• Choice in process and product • Interest based tasks • Structure not coercive control • Choice of redirecting behavior or logical consequences

Reference:

Heacox, D. (2013) Motivating Reluctant Learners. Rochester.

Purpose

Students who are motivated by purpose are in need for a rationale for what they are learning, a relevance of learning, and the need to make connections to their lives.

| The student values...	Then, use this...
Purpose	• Communicating the relevancy of what is being learned • Connections to real life applications • Flexibility in assignments to respond to their interests • Promote the value of their learning • Conversations about the purpose of behavior and the effects of misbehavior on others

Belonging

Students who are motivated by belonging have the need for personal connections between teachers and students, need for classroom community, and needs for opportunities to work with others.

The student values...	Then, use this...
Belonging	• Collaborative work • Opportunities to connect with teachers and peers • Peer mediation • Opportunities for 'redemption'

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HEY! GET OUT OF BED AND GET TO WORK, YOU LAZY BUM!!!
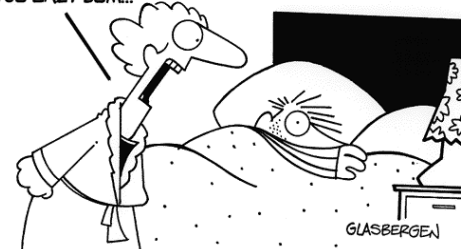
How Motivational Speakers Get Motivated.