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Relationship-Centered Practices Recap

- **Connection**

Students are more likely to engage when they feel seen, safe, and valued.

- **Regulation**

Students often borrow the calm of trusted adults before developing their own emotional regulation skills.

- **Belonging**

A sense of belonging can transform behavior, confidence, and engagement.

- **Resilience**

Supportive relationships help students navigate adversity and develop emotional strength.

- **Ripple Effect**

Small moments of encouragement, patience, and belief can impact students far beyond the classroom.

Beyond the Behavior

Behavior is often communication before it is defiance.

Sometimes students are not trying to give us a hard time. Sometimes students are HAVING a hard time.

Reflection Question:

Think about a student who challenges you most. What might be happening underneath the behavior that cannot immediately be seen?

Connection Before Correction

Correction without connection often creates resistance.

Connection creates:

✓ Emotional safety

✓ Trust

✓ Regulation

✓ Increased engagement

Reflection Question:

What is one intentional relationship-building strategy you currently use with students?

Emotional Safety & Classroom Climate

Students thrive in environments that feel:

- Predictable

- Welcoming

- Consistent

- Encouraging
- Safe

Reflection Question:

What is one thing students experience in your classroom or workspace that helps them feel emotionally safe?

Regulation Before Redirection

A dysregulated student cannot effectively process correction.

Helpful Strategies:

- Lower your tone before raising consequences
- Pause before reacting emotionally
- Use curiosity before control
- De-escalate publicly, correct privately
- Focus on safety and regulation first

“Students borrow our calm before they develop their own.”

Small Moments Create Big Impact

A greeting at the door. A smile. A student’s name. A moment of patience.
A reminder that they still matter.

Small moments create ripple effects.

Reflection Prompt:

Describe a small moment with a student that created a lasting impact.

The Ripple Reflection

Think about your own educational journey.

Who was an educator that made you feel seen, valued, or believed in? What specifically did they say or do that stayed with you?

Your Ripple Commitment

What is ONE intentional action you will take this week to strengthen connection, belonging, and emotional safety for students?
