Keeping School Culture Positive and Consistent in Remote & Distance Learning Settings

Through Consistency

In order to create a new normal, it's vital to maintain some semblance of the old normal. Like a security blanket, Kickboard can help you offer some consistency from past school life to the current present. Using your school's common language of behaviors and continuing the schoolwide culture work you did before gives students, staff and families something familiar to cling to.

Positivity, Now More Than Ever

As leaders, it's important to keep your chin up along with everyone else's. Remember in everyday life, a person needs to feel at least 3 positive emotions for every one negative feeling in order to thrive. This pandemic is creating so much fear, anxiety, stress, and boredom that it's imperative that we counter these feelings with loads of positivity. Using Kickboard gives you a systemic way to ensure positivity is generated. And as adults dole out positive feedback by entering Kickboard behaviors and specific comments, they in turn get to experience a positive feeling in that moment. Win-win!
Social-Emotional Skills Will Carry Us Through

While stressful and incredibly hard, our social and emotional skill sets will be what help us thrive in the end. It is a vital time to help children recognize when they self-regulate, when they are aware of and communicate needs, and when they make a responsible choice. Every child and adult in America is finding new ways to persevere, empathize, and be kind so let’s turn these into teachable celebrations!

Home-School Partnerships — Seize the Moment!

Educators have never had a more captive audience since most caregivers are isolated at home with their school-aged children. Research shows that the more involved a parent or caregiver is in their child’s education, the more likely the child will succeed.

Now is a beautiful opportunity to strengthen those partnerships and Kickboard is an easy way to keep families informed, communicating with you, and fired-up to help their child. Just think of the family momentum you’ll have once students return to school!
The following are some simple ideas for rethinking your use of Kickboard while buildings are closed.

Re-imagining your school’s use of this tool will increase positivity, build security with consistency, bolster critical SEL skills, and engage adults in their child’s learning throughout your school.

*Note:* Some ideas are for schools that are digitally connected to all students. However, given the digital divide and in the interest of equity, we also tried to include ideas that don’t assume devices and internet access are readily available.

**Create new Kickboard behaviors to support at-home learning**

- Keep your school’s **core value** behaviors in play. They are familiar and will maintain consistency.
- **Deactivate corrective behaviors** during the school closure. Pile on the positives!
- **Add a new set of behaviors** with a new category such as “**Reported by a family member.**” Ask caregivers to send daily reports via our direct messaging feature (more on that later) or through a daily or weekly log. Schools can define specific quantities for each behavior or they can be valued as 0 points or dollars in order to ensure equity.
• Ask teachers to use the [student tab of Kickboard Answers](#) to ensure these home-reported behaviors are happening for each child. Students who have less family report activity would need more phone calls and check-ins from their teacher.

• Create a category of behaviors such as **“Learning from Home”**. Teachers would observe these in their daily remote interactions with students and record in Kickboard.

Remember, by creating new behaviors (as opposed to editing existing ones), your data for traditional school behaviors stays intact. You can simply [deactivate traditional behaviors and then reactivate them](#) once your hallways are full again.
Set expectations for a community-wide Kickboard effort

Expectations for Teachers

- Use personal comments as often as possible when adding behaviors so that students know exactly what they did well.

- Reinforce academic fortitude from a distance, whether it’s returning a completed paper packet during a meal pick-up or completing an assignment digitally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imagination</th>
<th>9:20 am</th>
<th>Really thorough internalization through beautiful notes!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minerva McGonagall</td>
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<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>9:20 am</th>
<th>Way to show up to Zoom with questions and ready to participate!</th>
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<td>Minerva McGonagall</td>
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- Send a set number of individual messages per week to each family using Kickboard direct messaging. Call parents who have not yet set their accounts up and guide them on how to get connected.

- Use Kickboard’s new group messaging feature for daily class shout-out’s and daily questions to their homeroom group.

As with traditional school, what gets monitored gets done. It’s up to leaders to peek at usage each day. You can check out teacher usage using Kickboard Answers and follow up with individual staff who need more support giving it a go remotely.
Expectations for the Community

Send out a community letter emphatically encouraging caregivers to consider Kickboard your school’s communication hub. Make sure you have set up and sent out access letters or include directions in the same communication.

ASK FAMILIES TO:

- Make sure they have activated their family portal login.
- Turn on message notifications from their Kickboard app.
- Log on to the Kickboard Family Portal at least once a day via the web or mobile app.
- Share teacher feedback with their students.
- Write back to teachers, keeping the communication flowing!

And remember, students can access the portal also! Students can set up their own personal login to see real-time feedback from their teachers. Just follow the same steps as parents to activate an account.
Set up Distance-Friendly Celebrations and Incentives

Leaders will definitely want to rally the team together to generate some ideas for celebrations that work for your school’s community restrictions, budget, and bandwidth.

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS:

- Shout-out’s sent through group messaging to the whole class for top point/dollar earners each week.
- The top earner for each grade level from Family-Reported points earns an Uber Eats, DoorDash or pizza delivery gift card for their family.
- Principal Perseverance phone calls home celebrating the students who earned more than 3 family-reported perseverance behaviors that week. *Kickboard support can set that up as a trigger!*
- The student in each grade level that earns the most reading points gets to have a Zoom or Google Hangout storytime meeting with the school librarian. In secondary, they can create the librarian’s Recommended Reading video for the week.
- Hold a grade level contest for teachers. The 3 staff with the most interactions in Kickboard get an Amazon gift card (for toilet paper!)
- The student in each class with the most growth in point totals each week gets special 1-on-1 time with their teacher via video chat.
- The top earner of physical activity points gets to go on a walk or run with the PE teacher’s dog via video chat or FaceTime.

*Have any other fun remote incentive ideas? Please send them our way so we can share out your creativity!*
Maximize Messaging

There’s no better time to seize the opportunity for tighter collaboration between home and school. Kickboard’s messaging feature for families makes it easy to do. Teachers or leaders can send out individual messages or blast out group messages to families. Logging into the portal puts families face-to-face with their child’s Kickboard activity to keep it top of mind.

Here are a few ideas for how teachers and leaders can use these features to build community and keep the learning happening:

Pose a class “morning meeting” or Advisory Class question focused on community connectedness or emotional health. The parent can respond back for the child or the child can provide the answer using any online platform you are using (Google Classroom, Seesaw, etc). A response can get logged in Kickboard as a “remote participation” behavior. A few examples of QoD might be:

- Share something that made you smile today.
- Name something you did today that made you proud.
- What is a way you helped another family member today?
- Share something specific that stresses you out about COVID-19 and one thing that helps you de-stress.
- Name something you’re grateful for and why.
Pose a content-related question to a class group for students to research or remember. Families who respond back with their student’s answer get remote participation points. You might also want to check out how one Kickboard teacher uses social media and then reinforces with Kickboard points.

Send a positive message of encouragement to individual students.

Reach out to individual families asking them to name a need their family has during this time. Pass the intel along to your school’s guidance counselor, social worker or admin team to explore help options.

School leaders send grade level or department shout-outs or announcements.

Using Kickboard intentionally can be the glue that gets us through this crisis! Even better, we’ll all be stronger, healthier, and more resilient on the other side of it.

We’re in this together! Please reach out to support@kickboardforschools.com to reconfigure your Kickboard site, or help you in any way.