

Share with colleagues and then commit to making at least three changes in your practice.



What Does it Look Like When Teachers Foster Curiosity & Creativity?

- Creative thinkers are not only accepted, but truly valued.
- Students are eager to be engaged in their own learning experiences.
- Student expertise is utilized in the classroom.
- Teachers help students question the way things are typically done.
- Students are eager to be involved in classroom discussions.
- Teachers understand individual learning styles and how this impacts learning.
- Art and music are valued in the classroom.
- Students feel learning is relevant to their current lives.
- Students are encouraged to ask “Why?” and “Why not?”

Best Classroom Practices Related to Curiosity & Creativity

- Allow students the opportunity to solve complex problems.
- Encourage students to ask questions.
- Create open-ended assignments.
- Discover students’ individual learning styles.
- Incorporate art, music, and physical movement into teaching.
- Give students tools and skills to search for answers on their own.
- Share your curiosity with your students.
- Make learning relevant for students.
- Share different opinions, ideas, and theories with students.
- Teach students how to find solutions to complex problems.
- Reward independent thinkers.
- Explore new ideas and thoughts with students.
- Provide students opportunities to lead a lesson.

Leader’s Role in Promoting Curiosity & Creativity for Students

- Ask students questions and provide ample time for them to answer.
- Share your curiosities and wonderments with students.
- Acknowledge and celebrate creative students and their ideas.
- Encourage students to look at problems/issues from various perspectives.
- Ensure that hallways and classroom appearances are imaginative.
- Understand your students’ needs and strengths.
- Encourage students to dream about their futures.
- Develop new ways to showcase student work, performances, and talents.
- Allow students the opportunity to question the way things are typically done.
- Participate in classroom discussions with students.
- Invite students to participate in brainstorming sessions to address school issues.
- Celebrate the arts at your school to the same degree as athletics.
- Support the creative arts as a core subject, not as an elective.
- Provide opportunities for your staff to be creative.

Developing Strategies and Tactics

To enhance Curiosity & Creativity in your classroom, respond to the following prompts, then act.

1. To understand the unique learning styles of my students, I will . . .
2. To make my class relevant and meaningful for students, I will . . .
3. To encourage students to be inquisitive, I will . . .
4. To show students I value creative thinking, I will . . .
5. To incorporate art, music, and physical movement into the school day, I will . . .
6. To promote an attitude of discovery in my grade level/department, I will . . .
7. To support students who challenge the status quo at my school, I will . . .
8. To celebrate the creativity of my students with the community, I will . . .

