

# STRATEGY 3: FAMILY + STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Student and family questionnaires or interest surveys are another way to collect useful information for all students and families in your class. It's essential to make clear to families that you value them and gathering this information will help you best communicate with them and support their child. These sample prompts can get you started on building your own family or student questionnaires. Additional [Trust Building Questions](#) can be found in the Appendix. No matter which questions you choose to include in a questionnaire, be sure to ask in the most user-friendly and direct way possible.

## Family Questionnaire Sample Prompts

- Student name
- Parent/Guardian name(s)
- Preferred method of contact: phone call, text, email, other
- Cell phone number(s)
- Email address(es)
- Student's before or after-school placement as relevant
- Are there any health concerns for your child I should be aware of? (Allergies, Asthma, etc.)
- Please describe your child as a learner.
- What are your hopes for your student this year? What is your dream for them in the future?

**TECH TIP:** Consider the technological savviness of families and provide various options to gather feedback, such as Google Forms.

## Student Questionnaire Sample Prompts

- Name
- Age/Birthday
- Who is in your family?
- Tell me about last school year. What did you like? What did you dislike?
- What is your favorite book?
- What did you do this summer that you enjoyed? What was most difficult?
- How do you feel about the new school year? What are you most excited about?
- What are you most worried about?
- What else do you think is important for me to know about you/ how you learn?

**Note:** consider calling out "distance learning" as appropriate in questions to differentiate between experiences and feelings about in-person learning vs. distance learning.

# Guiding Principles for Beginning of the Year Relationship Building

Regardless of the strategy you choose, these principles should guide your approach to building relationships with your student's families.



## **Be authentic.**

Family engagement is people work— sharing yourself authentically with families will help quickly build trust and rapport. Creating a strong sense of shared humanity can help us feel connected.



## **Center on the student.**

Ask about hopes, dreams, and expectations. This is an incredible opportunity for the teacher, student, and family to align on what's most important to each of them in supporting the student's academic success.



## **Focus on what is important to the family.**

These conversations should emphasize building connections. Focus on the relationship while following the family's lead. Some families might want to share and get to know your background; others might want academic information. Many will want both!



## **Consistency is key.**

Relationships take time. These strategies will start the process of building relationships. Still, it is frequent and consistent communication that allows relationships to grow and sustain, especially if you do not have the opportunity to connect frequently with families in-person.



## **All families receive outreach.**

Every family deserves to have a trusting relationship with their child's teacher. Families should see that relationship building is for everyone!