

## Three Simple Actions That Build Middle School Culture and Community

What happens when you invite two passionate mid-level educators to share a conversation about middle school culture and community? They brainstorm practical ways to make sure that every student is connected! Check out the recommendations below from [Jack Berckemeyer](#) and [Wendy Amato](#). You can also enjoy their conversation in this episode of Teaching Channel Talks!

### Old School

Butcher paper may be “old school,” but it’s still a great way to encourage educators to gather and brainstorm together. Draw a student on the paper and invite colleagues to write the characteristics of a middle schooler. Share a conversation about the significance, accuracy, meaning, impact, and nature of those characteristics. Discuss how you will use your insights to relate to the learners in your program.

### Go To The Source

Want to learn about the latest slang, trends, fashion, fads, dances, and other middle grade essentials? Ask the students! Your curiosity becomes a connection and you get to model what it means to grow and learn new things. Your students get to share their funds of knowledge and enjoy teaching you for a change.

Pro tip: Try a fun survey!

### Meet Them Where They Are

If you believe that your students are consumers of social media, why not take a peek? Even if you don’t want to create your own social media account, you probably have students who would love to have you lean over their phones with them to check out the latest additions to the feed. Take it a step further and ask them to talk aloud and share their observations and reflections on the content you are scrolling through together and celebrate their critical thinking skills.

If you’ve read to the bottom of this page, you are surely a passionate mid-level educator, too! Your commitment to ensuring that each student is connected, seen, and appreciated will make all the difference in your lasting impact. Regardless of your strategy, be an observer and be a listener. Middle school students are treasures and working with them is a joy. K12 Coalition appreciates and support you.