

Students with disabilities remark

You can call accessibility services if you are concerned about a student. Ask for the student's case worker, which is listed on the blue letter you received from accessibility services

Brief discussion regarding political pins/shirts/etc.

It's hard to get students to open up and come to office hours. If you portray a message contrary to their personal beliefs or political opinions, it makes it even less likely that they will feel comfortable approaching you for help. You are their math teacher and they already fear you.

We watched this video about the purpose of school, because it is very motivating/inspirational.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x78PnPd-V-A&feature=plcp>

Motivating Students

What motivates students?

- Grades
 - This is why they always want to know what is on the test, rather than how to understand a specific topic
- Wanting to go to class
- Wanting to actually learn the material

No student will want to be there every single day, but you should look like you want to be there every day, and actively work to get students excited about going to class.

Why motivate students?

- We are here for our students and it is our responsibility to motivate them
- Motivated students learn more and learn better than unmotivated students
- Teaching motivated students is more fun for us! It can be hard to want to teach a bunch of students who don't want to be there. But if your students want to be there, it can create a motivation loop.
- Math/stats/biomath are awesome!
- Motivated students write better evaluations of their teachers

How do you know if/when your students are not motivated?

- They don't go to class
- They don't ask/answer questions
- They don't pay attention or spend their time in class looking at their phone, their laptop, a window, etc.
- There is no dialog, no email communication, etc.
- They don't catch your mistakes (which are of course few, far between, and always intentional)
- They don't turn in their homework
- They stop doing work, participating, and turning things in even though they used to

What are de-motivators for teachers?

- We may be required to teach things in a manner we disagree with
- We may have a lack of control over our class, the material, assignments, and/or exams.

- WebAssign

How can you motivate students?

- Learn and remember their names/favorite color/other classes they are taking and other random information they share with you
- Write positive comments when grading
- Be humorous. Have a sense of humor about your own mistakes or idiosyncrasies (without ignoring mistakes)
- Explain things well and thoroughly
- Make the material relatable. Draw connections between class work and the real world.
 - Ex. How the moon was created, satellite dishes, soccer problems
- Candy. This is especially go for office hours.
- Demonstrate a mastery of your subject, without alienating your students or diminishing their struggles
- Admit when stuff is hard. Your students will be motivated by knowing that you found this stuff hard too once, but look how far you've come.
 - “When I was learning this, I really struggled with this bit.”
- Provide examples showing when certain techniques might not work out (try by parts, even though you know it may not help) to show them both the problem solving process, how to recognize when an attempt is not fruitful, and that it is not the end of the world when the first technique fails.
- Foster more interaction in class
 - Have students “guide” you through problems in class
- Actually believe in each and every one of your students
- Encourage questions
- Provide students with extra cool math stuff that complement the class, or may be outside the scope of class, but still very interesting and accessible.
 - Ex. vihart on youtube.com
- Take pride in what you do and how well you do it
- Care about what you are teaching