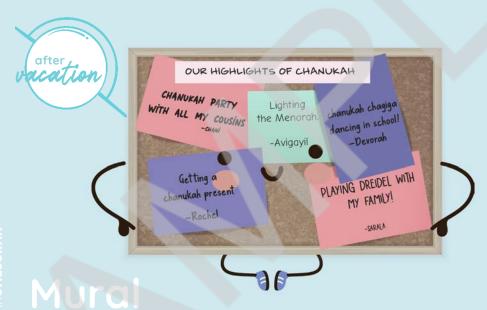


Activity cards that inspire connection in the classroom.





Every girl gets a quarter of an oaktag and draws a picture with a headline and signature depicting her favorite Yom Tov experience. Each row gets together to explain their pictures to one another.

They then tape their oaktag quarters together.

Two girls tape all the oaktags together at recess to hang on a "HIGHLIGHTS OF YOM TOV" bulletin board.

A mural can be used as an activity for other opportunities, such as:
"My memories of the Makkos Fair," "What's new for me?" etc.





Postcard

Mail a "Getting to Know you Postcard" to the students' homes in advance of the first day (ie. July – mid August). The postcard requests that students fill in their personal information along with their hopes and dreams for the coming year. Be sure to personally sign the postcards. The students hand in the filled out postcards on the first day of school.

Teacher can respond with a personalized welcoming card within the first week, preferably the first day.



This has been done in high school and is very impactful.

Students feel like, "My teacher really wants to get to know me!"





Interview



Divide the students into groups of 3. Each group has 3 roles:

- Interviewer
- 2. Interviewee
- 3. Reporter

1ST Round Interviewer asks Interviewee: "What makes your family unique? Describe." Interviewee responds and Reporter writes.

2nd Round Switch roles and repeat activity

3rd Round Switch roles again and repeat activity

Share 1 Reporter from each group shares a memorable experience of one of their group members with the rest of the class.



MORE INTERVIEW IDEAS: What are you enjoying most about 7th grade?
What is your favorite thing to do on a day off?





Check-In Card





At the end of the first week, give out a multiple-choice card to the students.

Ask them to circle the answers that best describe how they are doing.

Example:

The following subject has been very stimulating and DOABLE for you:				
a) Chumash	b) Parshah	c) Navi	d)Yahadus	
The following subject has been a <mark>chal</mark> lenge for you:				
a) History	b) Biology	c) Math	d) Computers	
Write 1-2 sentences telling me how I can make the beginning of your year smoother.				



Use a check-in card throughout the year to stay in the know.

8 - 8





Check in with the students to hear their likes, dislikes, and preferences by having them hold up their fingers!

Suggested prompts:

Which is your favorite location for recess?

1. Outdoors 2. Indoors 3. Gym

Which sports equipment or activities would you like me to order for our class?

1. High balls, jump ropes, basket balls

2. Card games

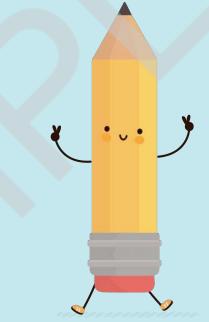
3. Board games 4. None - I'd rather schmooze with my classmates

What would be your most preferred privilege, when our class will earn one?

1. Extra 10 minutes of recess 2. Danishes/chocolate

3. 10 minutes of shmoozing time with my teacher





Quick Write



Students write a response to one of these prompts:

- I am grateful to someone, because....
- I enjoy when we learn/do.....because...
- I am thankful for (something/someone) because....
- What's new for you? Why are you excited about it?
- Something about your life (in school/at home) that you would like me to know about....



Teacher chooses one student to be 'it.'

The student calls out an item, sport, food, or subject; ie. "Pizza!"

One at a time, students either throw their hands up and say, "Love it!" or stamp their feet and say, "Leave it!"

Responses should be quick and snappy, without pause for pondering. When each girl has had her turn, the student who is 'it' calls out another item, such as "Jump rope!" and the process is repeated.





Create an

Appreciation Board



An Appreciation Board provides a space for students to recognize people in their lives whom they are grateful for. It's a place where they can give shout-outs to classmates they have seen doing commendable things. On a bulletin board or designated space in the classroom, have students post 'appreciation notes.' They can write their own name, the name of the person they are acknowledging, and what that person did to deserve the shout-out. Every so often, the teacher can pick a few posts to read aloud to the class. Spreading appreciation awareness boosts confidence in the classroom and keeps students on the lookout for kind behavior!

tried & true

Teacher can opt to reward the students that are acknowledged or to notify them privately instead of reading the posts to the class.

