# BUILDING COMMUNITY REMOTELY

## Ten Helpful Tips

### 6 ADULT SUPPORTERS

Not every student has two parents or a biological parent at all in their life. Start replacing the term "parent" with the phrase "adult supporter." Make positive contact with adult supporters of students early and often. Keep them informed, brag on their students, let them know what to expect from the adults, processes, and expectations within the school.

### 7 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Host monthly or quarterly community fun nights, inviting staffulty, students, adult supporters, and other community members to interact and have fun in a purely social setting. Ideas for virtual community fun nights include bingo, scavenger hunts, trivia contests, dance parties, talent shows, slam poetry sessions, student work/art displays, etc.

### 8 STAFFULTY SOCIALS

Staffulty morale is the foundation of school culture. If staffulty morale is suffering, so will your school culture and sense of community. Schedule regular virtual meetings for your staffulty that are purely social check-ins by nature. An alternative would be to designate the first few minutes of every staffulty meeting to team building and informal conversations. Put staffulty coffee breaks or tea talks on the calendar and allow your staffulty to socialize and check in with one another without talking about school or task lists.

### 9 OFFICE HOURS

School administrators, counselors, bookkeepers, instructional leaders, media center specialists, and technology department personnel should set and maintain consistent and frequent office hours so that staffulty, students, and adult supporters have opportunities to communicate and seek assistance when needed. Teachers, aides, and assistants should do the same for the students on their class rosters and their adult supporters.

### 10 BRAGS AND BACKGROUNDS

Distance learning does not necessitate the removal of staffulty and student recognition opportunities - it may just require new fun ways to brag on each other. Implement digital learners of the week in each class or grade level and a provide customized Student of the Week JPEG for that student to use as their background when logging in to virtual class meetings. You can do the same with staffulty and virtual staff meetings.

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