

# GIFTS WITHOUT STRINGS



CHATHAM COUNTY  
BT1s  
2021-2022



## 1 Play music

- Let students choose music (e.g., song suggestion box; create class playlist)
- Extend brain, movement, and stretch breaks
- Practice with students (e.g., band warmups, sprints)
- Remember what they said they were doing for the weekend and asking about it on Monday
- Attend extra curricular events
- Give students an "improve day" once per quarter
- Tell jokes (e.g., "Grandpa always said...")
- Allow no shoes
- Use transitional times as "open floor" times for personal interest
- Ask students what name they want to be called.
- Provide secret student signals that will be acknowledged and respected
- Share personal stories/photos (college, sorority life, personal experience)
- Provide reusable water bottles
- Facilitate democracy (e.g., class vote)
- Seasonal celebrations (e.g., make seasonal edibles and drinkable like hot chocolate)
- Reflect student interest and academic content in classroom decor
- Broker lottery games ---\*bears further explanation (LOL)
- Lead karaoke Friday (e.g., Spanish songs)
- Introduce cultural experiences (e.g., Latin food, music); have students share cultural experiences
- Share science memes
- Provide student collaboration time
- Take a walk outside
- Host a spontaneous dance party
- Play a fun game
- T-shirt for every student (e.g., 1st day, 100 days, special events)
- Watch a movie and eat popcorn after reading the book
- Invite students to ask questions about me
- Extend choice (e.g., seating, stations, project, deadlines, etc.)
- Begin with a "check-on" (e.g., What's new?)
- Offer "Lunch with the Coach"
- Use YouTube videos

- Rotate lunch groups with teacher weekly; lunch in lab
- Leave motivational note on class bathroom mirror.
- Name our class
- Check and respond to student communication via classroom mailbox
- Have old fashion show-n-tell
- Give a trip to the treasure box -- no strings attached, obviously...
- Engage in community share (e.g., Hi/Low Friday)
- Play teacher v. class competitions
- Give mask breaks when properly socially distanced and it's safe to do so
- Include special guests and community visitors on a regular basis
- Involve students in teacher's pets' lives (e.g., "Let's check the Ziggy cam...")
- Take care of a class pet
- Dress up as characters

**SUBMITTED BUT DIDN'T MAKE LIST**  
due to the obvious strings

- ✗ Pizza Reward Day
- ✗ Painting mandala after finishing task
- ✗ Free puppies