



Dear Academy Members,

We hope that our stateside members had a wonderful Fourth of July! Here at The Academy, we have a lot to share with our members. This continues to be a hard year for many teachers and students, and because of the ongoing transitions, many of you may already be starting to plan for next year. Here are a few resources that might be useful and motivating!

Introducing LiberatED!

We want to highlight a wonderful new organization, LiberatED: “a liberatory approach to social and emotional learning (SEL), racial justice, and healing.” LiberatED has a collection of anti-racist/anti-bias (ABAR) resources on their [website](#), as well as an active Twitter and Instagram presence with reflection questions and prompts for students and educators.

This past June, Dena Simmons, LiberatED’s founder, hosted two conversations as part of Breaking Bread with LiberatED. One [conversation](#) with the author, poet and activist,

Monique Lorden, and another [conversation](#) with the educator and author, Liz Kleinrock.

Lastly, LiberatED is hosting a kick off party on August 4, 2021 from 3:00 - 5:00 PM EST to celebrate their official launch.

You can register for the party [here](#)!



Helping Students Exit the Pandemic

As we are exiting the pandemic, there continues to be a strain on students. This [Edutopia article](#) shares strategies to help students transition back to the classroom as they cope with trauma and loss. The article include tips on how to foster relationships with students, which can help boost their morale and self-esteem, how to create a safe environment and how to promote self-growth and reflection.



Overcoming Obstacles

We find that the summer is a great time to bookmark resources for next year OR to take a deep dive into resources that you may not have time to digest during the school year. That's why we want to (re)introduce you to Overcoming Obstacles, an organization that creates life skills lessons and curriculums for students in grades K-12. Overcoming Obstacles has a [curriculum library](#) with a plethora of lessons on communication, building confidence, copings skills and respect, just to name a few!

While we encourage you to check out all of their resources, we want to highlight their very first lesson, [Lesson 1: Who are You?](#), from the Getting Started Module for middle school students.

The lesson objectives are for students to learn one another's names, to introduce themselves to one another and to develop team work skills. After hooking students with an activity to line up in alphabetical order without talking (a near impossible task when you know no one else's name), students share facts about their name and share their answers to questions such as, "if you were a piece of clothing, what would you be?"

In the next portion of the lesson, students untangle themselves from a human knot with the rule to address one another by name, if they need to ask one another to move. The lesson ends with a reflection on the human knot activity and development of classroom teamwork expectations.

Overcoming Obstacles also provides a number of extension resources for each lesson, including writing exercises, reflection activities, technology tasks and homework assignments.

Upcoming Events

This week CASEL's Building Connections webinar series is presenting a webinar on how to implement "Transformative SEL", a form of SEL that focuses on "promoting social justice through increased school and civic engagement." The webinar will introduce Transformative SEL, provide models of what Transformative SEL looks like in schools and share research from Transformative SEL initiatives.

Topic: Building Connections: Social and Emotional Learning and Equitable Spaces

Date and Time: Friday July 30, 2021 at 11 AM EST/8 AM PST
Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7716222157833/WN_ZECwqKFeReegSbSiTVVKNA

Virtual Professional Learning Community

Our Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) is always looking for new topics or areas of interest. If you could send us an issue, topic, or question for which you would most like consultation/support we would greatly appreciate it!

Emails can be sent to: SELvplc@gmail.com

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Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools · 2 Convent Road · Morristown, NJ 07960-6989 · USA

