

DREAM CLASSROOM

MATERIALS |

Large paper, magazines, glue, markers/crayons

OBJECTIVES | The objectives of this activity are for participants to collaboratively identify what has worked well for them in school and what kinds of supports will make it more likely for them to have a successful year.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Ask participants to think of a learning experience they have had in the past that they enjoyed. Perhaps a class from a previous school year or an extracurricular activity or sport. Give them time to individually write or illustrate what it was about that experience that they enjoyed. What worked well for them and what didn't?

Divide participants into groups of 4 or 5.

Invite participants to work with their team to make a vision board using images, words, magazine cut outs, etc. of their "Dream Classroom" based on the ideas they brainstormed about learning experiences they've enjoyed before.

- What would your ideal classroom look like?
- What would it sound like?
- What would it feel like?
- How would people treat each other?
- What supports and resources would be available to you?
- What would the rules or norms be?

Give each small group a turn to share their board with the large group. You may do this in a "gallery walk" first in which everyone walks around the room to look at each other's boards and then allow each group to say a few words about their vision.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What did our dream classrooms have in common? How were they similar? How were they different?
- How could we work together to incorporate some of these ideas into your space or classroom?



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/creating-community-norms/>

NOTES |

If participants have not done a "Community Brainstorm" consider starting by introducing the concept of community found in that activity.

This activity can be done as an alternative to the "Community Vision Board."