



Students work together to create a class “COMMUNITY” newsletter.



Flipchart paper or whiteboard; Markers or dry erase markers; Blank paper; Pencils or pens; Computer available to research and show examples of “NEWSLETTERS” (optional).

Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the last Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at [www.everymondaymatters.org](http://www.everymondaymatters.org). Additionally, a three-minute recap of the previous weeks may add extra context to this week and help connect the dots around the monthly theme.

4 C's	SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING	SERVICE LEARNING
• Critical thinking	• Self-awareness	• Integrated learning
• Communication	• Self-management	• High quality service
• Collaboration	• Social-awareness	• Collaboration
• Creativity	• Relationship skills	• Student voice
	• Responsible decision-making	• Civic responsibility
		• Reflection
		• Evaluation

## GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Discover how our actions can build “COMMUNITY” and help others feel accepted just as they are
- Practice being our true selves and show others that they can do the same
- Find creative and welcoming ways to bring people together in a positive environment
- Understand how “COMMIT TO COMMUNITY” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS ENGAGED”



## **STUDENT ACTIVITY:** **“CLASS NEWSLETTER”**

### **1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “CLASS NEWSLETTER”**

### **2) ASK 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY’S FOCUS:**

**\*NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **What is a “NEWSLETTER”?**
  - Answer: A small publication sent out to members of a “COMMUNITY”
- **Have you ever read a “NEWSLETTER”?**
  - What was it about?
- **Do you ever read a “NEWSPAPER” or another form of the “NEWS”?**
- **Have you ever written about the “NEWS” in a “NEWSLETTER” or “NEWSPAPER”?**
- **What do you like about knowing the “NEWS” or what’s going on in the world?**
- **Do you think it is important to know about what is going on in your “COMMUNITY”?**
  - Why or why not?
- **Do you think others in our “COMMUNITY” would like to know about what is going on in our “CLASS” or school?**
- **What are some interesting things that we have going on in our “CLASS”?**
  - What might it be like to share these things with others to help them get to know their “COMMUNITY” better?
- **Do you think that writing and sharing “NEWS” can be a good way to “GET ENGAGED”?**
  - How might it help others “GET ENGAGED” with their “COMMUNITY” also?
- **Do you think that sharing the “NEWS” can help us all remember that WE MATTER?**

### **3) SET UP THE “CLASS NEWSLETTER” ACTIVITY:**

- **Explain:**
  - A “NEWSLETTER” is an excellent way to stay in touch with our “COMMUNITY” and the people who live in it
  - We can create a sense of belonging and “COMMUNITY” just by sharing information about what’s going on in our “CLASS” and campus
  - Even if the “NEWS” might seem normal and uninteresting to us, others will find it interesting
  - And, they’ll get a good idea of what this part of their “COMMUNITY” is up to!
- **Ask:**
  - What are some things that we have going on as a “CLASS”?
  - Are you ready to “GET ENGAGED” by sharing these things with our “COMMUNITY”?

### **4) START THE “CLASS NEWSLETTER” ACTIVITY:**

- **Tell students that they’ll be working together today to create a “CLASS NEWSLETTER”**
- **If possible, show students examples of different “NEWSLETTERS”. If this isn’t possible, have a quick discussion of what “NEWSLETTERS” can contain, including current events, student and teacher profiles, any awards or “CLASS” highlights, photos from field trips or other activities, etc.**
- **Then, have students brainstorm as a class the different sections or pieces of “NEWS” that they can share in their “NEWSLETTER”**
  - As students share, write the ideas on the flipchart paper or whiteboard
  - Some possible sections include current, past, or upcoming events; student and teacher profiles or student of the month; any awards or “CLASS” highlights; performances; local “COMMUNITY” topics; student work samples or essays; letters from a “CLASS” pet; photos from field trips or other activities; etc.
- **Once you decide on a few sections, have students split into small groups to work on each section**

- Pass out blank paper and pencils or pens to each group
- Give students the remaining time (up to 10 minutes total) to come up with ideas for their sections
  - If time allows, they can begin writing a rough draft of their different topics and sections
- When time is up, ask for students to share out their ideas for their section of the “CLASS NEWSLETTER”
- Make time in class over the next week for students to write and complete their sections and to put the “NEWSLETTER” together
- Then, work together as a class to distribute the finished “NEWSLETTER” to other “CLASSES” and around the “COMMUNITY”

**5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, ASK 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY’VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:**

**\*NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- What was it like to create our “CLASS NEWSLETTER” today?
- Did you enjoy coming up with ideas to share with other people in our “COMMUNITY”?
- Did you enjoy working on the section you did?
  - If you could work on another “NEWSLETTER” section, which one would you choose and why?
- What do you think our “NEWSLETTER” will be like when it’s finally done?
- Do you think others will enjoy our “CLASS NEWSLETTER”?
- How is creating this “CLASS NEWSLETTER” a way to “COMMIT” to our “COMMUNITY”?
- How can we continue “ENGAGING” our “COMMUNITY” like we did today?
  - Would you want to create a monthly “CLASS NEWSLETTER”?
  - Or, do you have other ideas?
- What are the benefits of sharing what’s going on in our “CLASS” with others?
- Are there ways to expand our “CLASS NEWSLETTER” to be more inclusive of our larger “COMMUNITY”?
  - How can we do this?
- How did you remember that WE MATTER through our activity today?
- What would the world be like if we all “GOT ENGAGED” in our “COMMUNITIES” more often?

**6) THANK STUDENTS FOR THEIR HARD WORK ON THE “CLASS NEWSLETTER” TODAY. REMIND THEM THAT THEY AND THEIR EFFORTS “MATTER”, AND THAT THEIR “NEWSLETTER” WILL HELP OTHERS “GET ENGAGED” IN THEIR “COMMUNITY”.**

**7) SUPPORT STUDENTS AS THEY FINISH THEIR “CLASS NEWSLETTER” AND WORK TOGETHER TO DISTRIBUTE IT AROUND THE “COMMUNITY”. REMIND STUDENTS THAT THEIR WORK WILL SHOW OTHERS THAT THEY “MATTER”.**

**8) CONTINUE EXPLORING HOW TO “COMMIT TO COMMUNITY” BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSION IDEAS.**



## EXTENSION IDEAS:

**DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.**

- 1) Finish the Newsletter:** Give students extra time in class to finish their sections of the “NEWSLETTER”. Then, work together to layout the “NEWSLETTER”, being sure to include all sections and deciding together on the layout, title of the “NEWSLETTER”, whether it will be black and white or color, and how many pages. When finished, make sure each student gets a copy (or two).
- 2) Distribute the Newsletter:** Make additional copies of the “CLASS NEWSLETTER” and work with students to pass out to different locations in the community.
- 3) Monthly Newsletter:** Work with students to make the “CLASS NEWSLETTER” a recurring project, something that happens either once a month or a few times a year.

“**THOSE WHO ARE HAPPIEST ARE THOSE WHO DO THE MOST FOR OTHERS.**”

- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON