

# MOTIVATING THE UNMOTIVATED

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## CREATING A RELATIONSHIP

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Get to know students beyond the classroom

Take stock in their interest- even if it isn't your thing

Don't make students feel like they are a burden

When you drop what you are doing and assist them, they are more likely to work for you in the future

Change your proximity and body language

Talk to your student

learn about intrinsic and physical incentives from them  
ask them about their lack of motivation

## STRUCTURE AND CONSISTENCY

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Establishing a set of expectations

clear, concise, repeated often

2-way street- identify what students should expect from you

Consequences vs rewards

be consistent in your consequences- not always a log entry

REWARD often- verbal praise goes a long ways

Growth mindset- believe students can improve

## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

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Alternative Assessments

identify their strengths and weakness

use their interests to spark new ideas

provide choice (gives them buy-in)

Make content relevant- why is this important in their post secondary future?

Controls vs variables

Environment, class structure, access to material, assessment

Who is your clientele? What do they bring with them?

## CREATE A TEAM

### A team approach

TOR's, counselor, past/current teachers who have seen success, deans, at-risk coordinator, IA's, mentors, family members

Motivation and Study Skills group <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-p8TPkYG4Gh7R0nCL3I9t-yvspR-Vboaa7VslY5-i0s/edit?ts=56e94ad7#slide=id.p>

### Communication is important

What happens in your class will be helpful for all teachers to know about

Share the positives often so praise is spread through multiple sources

Outline projects, assignments or work that needs completed so the whole team can help with the student accountability

### Roles

good cop, bad cop, know your personal strengths and weaknesses

## Motivation & Study Skills Group

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## Who?

- Seven 11th grade male students
- At least one of the following:
  - Failing grades
  - High numbers of missing assignments
  - Low motivation as measured by teacher and/or school counselor recommendation

## What?

- Six group counseling sessions
- Once per week
- During the first 45 minutes of AL
  - Still allows them to use half their normal AL time

## What?

### Lesson topics/activities

- Checking PowerSchool
- School Success Behaviors (vs Unsuccessful Behaviors)
- Career Aspirations
- SMART Goal Setting
- Motivation & Attributional Beliefs
- Overcoming Barriers to Success

## What?

### "Study"/Success Skills

- Organization (backpack game)
- Time Management (large planner activity)
- Note-taking
- Study Habits (via multiple intelligence theory)
- Money Management (monopoly \$ game)

## Motivation

- Give students choices & praise
- Make the material relevant to students' lives
- Establish a future-orientation
- Believe students can improve (growth-mindset)
- **Intrinsic** > ~~Extrinsic~~

## Did it work?

### Pre/Post-Test Analysis

- Students felt more confident in their ability as a student and a learner
- Students felt more responsible for their own success in school
- Students felt more connected to their peers and held each other accountable
- Students gained knowledge and understanding of their own sources of motivation (intrinsic vs extrinsic)
- Students gained understanding of and practiced specific behaviors that contribute to successful in school

## Did it REALLY work?

PowerSchool Data (Compared to Semester 1)

- Six students improved their grades in at least one class by at least one letter grade
- All seven students reduced their percentage of missing assignments in at least one class
- Five students had one or fewer tardies throughout the six weeks of group (compared to an average of five tardies last semester)

## Understand that this is a process

Changes won't occur overnight- it can take weeks, months, years

Progress looks different for each student

Praise the progress they are making

## Brain-storming

What other strategies/ techniques are you using in your class to motivate students?

Think of a student in your class, what can you incorporate into your class tomorrow?

## Things a teacher Will **NEVER** Do

- Give you up
- Let you down
- Run around
- Desert you
- Make you cry
- Say goodbye
- Tell a lie
- Hurt you
- All of the above

