Second Step® Community Rebuilding Unit

Grades 2 & 3 Lessons

Welcome to the Second Step® Community Rebuilding Unit.

This unit is designed to support schools as they reopen after extended school closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It aligns with the Second Step program but can also be used by any educator looking to foster a positive school or classroom community.

This unit is part of a broad range of supports for Second Step educators during this crisis, including:

- Guides to adapting Second Step lessons for remote and hybrid learning environments
- Remote advisory and class meeting guides to support schools that are still closed
- Online resilience training for adults
- Online training on how to recognize, respond to, and report signs of abuse and neglect
- Live and on-demand webinars on important topics
- The Imagine Neighborhood™ family SEL podcast

All these resources will be released throughout August 2020.

For more information, visit the Second Step COVID-19 support page: secondstep.org/COVID19support
## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

### Second Step® Community Rebuilding Unit

Grades 2 & 3 Lessons

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| **Lesson 1:** Hi, My Name Is | • Recall the names and interests of students in the class  
  • Name ways to be respectful | Due to COVID-19-related closures, many students have been away from school for a long time. This lesson can help students reacquaint themselves with their school community and get to know other students. Having a strong sense of community will help students feel comfortable and confident at school so that they are ready to learn. |
| **Lesson 2:** Exploring Classroom Norms | • Create a list of ways they want their classroom community to be  
  • Name behaviors that go with each item from the “We Are …” poster | Rules and routines are essential for classrooms to run smoothly. In addition to following the typical school and classroom rules, students will need to learn the new rules and routines to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Communicating these new rules and routines effectively is an important part of reducing students' fear and uncertainty and helping them feel empowered to do things to keep themselves and others safe and healthy. |
| **Lesson 3:** We Are Linked | • Name one thing they are excited for this school year  
  • Name one thing they feel worried about  
  • Say one question they have about school this year | What challenges do students face in returning to school after extended closures? Students’ sense of belonging at school is critical to their success as they reenter the classroom after this extended closure. Many, if not most, students are anxious about the challenges they might encounter. This lesson serves to counter those fears, reassure them their concerns are normal, and help them create a positive mindset that will increase their sense of belonging. |
| **Lesson 4:** Learning About Each Other with Art | • Ask questions to learn more about others  
  • Name a new thing they learned about someone in their classroom community | Giving students an opportunity to express themselves and ask questions can help them identify what they have in common with each other and build community. This lesson encourages students to learn more about themselves and each other through art. Getting to know each other and building a classroom community can help provide students with a sense of safety and support. |
| **Lesson 5:** Crayon Questions | Ask one to two questions to learn more about each other | In this lesson, students continue to express themselves and get to know their classmates. Asking questions about others and answering questions about themselves helps students learn about each other and feel like part of their class community. This increased sense of belonging is especially important in the current, uncertain circumstances as it will provide students with a sense of stability and comfort. |
Unit Description

The goal of the Community Rebuilding Unit is to help foster a sense of community among students and staff as they return to school after extended, COVID-19-related school closures.

To achieve this goal, the Community Rebuilding Unit will have students engage in a variety of activities designed to help them build connections with their peers and school staff. Students will also explore their thoughts and feelings about the unprecedented events they are living through so they can recognize experiences they’ve shared.

Staff will also receive guidance on how they can help foster a positive school community and provide meaningful support to their students.

Why This Unit Matters

The twin crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the issues of systemic racism (highlighted by the killing of George Floyd) have damaged students’ sense of safety and placed them at risk for traumatic stress and other adverse childhood experiences. Schools can play a critical role in moderating the effects of that stress by providing a safe and supportive environment where friends and caring adults can provide the social-emotional support students need to cope with what they’re experiencing.

Building a Positive School and Classroom Community

A positive school community feels safe, respectful, welcoming, supportive, and affirming of everyone’s identities, perspectives, and lived experiences.† Some ways to build a positive school community:

- Develop clear, fair rules and norms that support respectful behavior
- Promote positive peer relationships
  - Teach the lessons in this unit
  - Notice and reinforce positive interactions between peers
- Build positive relationships with all students
  - Check in regularly with students using the class check-in/check-out templates below
  - Get to know students and what's happening in their lives outside of school
  - Demonstrate warmth and inclusiveness in your interactions with students
  - Connect with students about their academic progress in a supportive and understanding way
  - Offer additional emotional support to students in need

• Respond to behaviors in a supportive way:
  • Understand that students who have experienced trauma or toxic stress may act out with disruptive behaviors, and that recognizing these behaviors as symptoms of trauma and stress is critical to building a positive school culture
  • Use the steps in “Safe Supportive Learning” on page 18 to help respond appropriately

**Check-Ins and Check-Outs**

**Overview**
Making sure a caring adult connects with every student every day is an effective way to build strong student-staff relationships and a positive school environment. Daily check-ins are a practical strategy for facilitating these connections schoolwide. They also serve to identify students who may need more personalized social-emotional support. The weekly check-out provides students with an opportunity to reflect on and process the week.

**Daily Check-In**

**Objectives**
By the end of this activity, students will be able to:
  • Identify how they're feeling
  • Ask for help with concerns and problems

**Lesson Note**
Consider participating in the conversation yourself. When you share how you're feeling, you can help normalize these conversations for students.
Group Check-In (10 min.)
1. Set the purpose of the lesson: Let's check in on how we're doing.
2. Have students take turns answering the following questions:
   • What's something you're not looking forward to today? Following safety rules. Being away from home.
3. Observe students as they answer. If you're concerned that a student may need extra support, use the Individual Check-In to follow up with them later in the day.

Individual Check-In (5 min.)
1. Find a time when you can talk with the student privately and ask the following questions:
   • How are you feeling today?
   • Is there anything you'd like me to know?
   • Is there anything you need help with?
2. Acknowledge and affirm students' feelings. Give them space to talk, but do not pry. Contact your school counselor or administrator if you're concerned that the student may need additional support.

Weekly Check-Out

Objective
By the end of this activity, students will be able to reflect on their experiences over the last week.

Lesson Note
As with check-in, consider participating in the conversation yourself. When you share how you're feeling, you can help normalize these conversations for students.

Group Check-Out (10 min.)
1. Set the purpose of the lesson: Let's reflect on how this week went for us.
2. Have everyone in the class (including you!) briefly answer the following question: What was the best part of this week? I wrote a whole sentence. We celebrated my friend's birthday.
3. What's one thing that was hard? Not touching my friends. Remembering to wash hands.
4. What's one thing you want to do this weekend? Sleep. See my grandma. Play with my dog.
Lesson 1: Hi, My Name Is _______

Getting Started

Overview
Due to COVID-19-related closures, many students have been away from school for a long time. This lesson can help students reacquaint themselves with their school community and get to know other students. Having a strong sense of community will help students feel comfortable and confident at school so that they are ready to learn.

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Recall the names and interests of students in the class
• Name ways to be respectful

Prep
N/A

Lesson Note
If your students speak languages other than English, consider having them introduce themselves in their home language and in English.

Warm-Up (3 min.)
1. Tell students the purpose: Today we’re going to play a game to learn each other’s names and interests. Knowing each other’s names and interests can help us get to know each other and even make new friends.

2. Have students respond to the following prompt: Clap once if you’ve heard the word “community.” Clap twice if you want to tell me what community means in your own words. Invite students to say what they think community means.

3. Tell students the definition: A community is a group of people who live, play, or work together. Who do you live, play, or learn with? Invite students to name people in their communities.

4. Everyone here is a part of many communities. We get to build our classroom community together.
Activity Instructions

Activity (15 min.)

1. Let’s play a game. Have students stand up behind their seat. To play, we’ll go around the room taking turns saying our name and something we like. First, let’s share our favorite thing about school.

2. I’ll go first. My name is __________, and my favorite thing about school is __________.

3. The person next to me will repeat my name and my answer before they say their own answer.
   (Your name is __________ and your favorite thing about school is __________.
   My name is __________ and my favorite thing about school is __________.)

4. If you forget someone’s name, it’s okay to ask. And if someone says your name wrong, help them say it correctly.
   Tip: It’s important to pronounce each name correctly. Model asking someone to repeat a name or ask, Did I say that right? Encourage students to do the same.

5. Play the game. Continue playing with new prompts as time allows. (For example, you could say your name and your favorite sport, hobby, movie, etc.)

Discuss (5 min.)

1. After a few rounds, have students take a seat. Now that we know each other’s names, let’s use them when we talk to each other. What can you do if you forget someone’s name? Ask them.

2. Learning someone’s name and saying it correctly is one way to be respectful. Being respectful means that we think about how others want to be treated and treat them that way.

3. What are some other ways we can be respectful to people in our community? Give think-time. Invite students to name ways to be respectful.

4. How do you feel when people are respectful? Happy. Like people care about me.

Wrap-Up (5 min.)

1. Think about the names you learned today. Show me with your fingers how many you remember. Have students say as many names as they can to themselves.

2. Can you remember something new you learned about someone during the game? Give think-time. Invite students to say something they learned. I learned that Sam’s favorite sport is soccer.

   Tip: As students share what they learned about others, encourage them to use each other’s names. Have students say things like, “Sam likes soccer” rather than pointing and saying, “She likes soccer.”

3. This week, let’s build our classroom community by using each other’s names and being respectful.
Lesson 2: Exploring Classroom Norms

Getting Started

Overview
Rules and routines are essential for classrooms to run smoothly. In addition to following the typical school and classroom rules, students will need to learn the new rules and routines to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Communicating these new rules and routines effectively is an important part of reducing students’ fear and uncertainty and helping them feel empowered to do things to keep themselves and others safe and healthy.

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Create a list of ways they want their classroom community to be
- Name behaviors that go with each item from the “We Are ...” poster

Prep
- On a piece of chart paper, write the title, “Ideas” in big letters. Underneath, list some positive adjectives, like “helpful,” “respectful,” “kind,” “friendly,” “safe,” “creative,” “responsible,” and “focused.”
- On a second piece of chart paper, write the title, “We Are” in big letters.

Lesson Note
These norms are meant to complement the class or school rules. When kids have a say in the norms they create, they have more incentive to follow and use them.

Warm-Up (3 min.)
1. Tell students the purpose: Today, we'll talk about, and agree on, how we want to be when we're learning and playing together.
2. Show students the “We Are” poster: We'll add words to this poster to describe how we want to be when we're together. This will help our community feel safe, welcoming, and fun.
Activity Instructions

Activity (15 min.)

1. Let's think of some words we can add to our “We Are . . . ” poster. As students suggest words, write them on the board until you have 6 to 8 words. Show students the words on the “Ideas” poster if needed.

2. Read each word on the board aloud and ask: What does this word mean? Give think-time. Call on a few students to share their ideas with the class.

3. Let's vote for our favorite words. Then, we'll add those words to our poster.

4. Point to each word in turn and read it aloud. If you want to put this word on the poster, put your thumb up. Count how many votes each word gets and write that number next to the word.

5. Circle and say the 3 to 5 words that got the most votes. Let's add our favorite words to our poster. As I add each word, let's say “We are” and the word. We are safe. We are respectful. We are kind.

6. Let's talk about how we'll know that our class is being (say the words on the poster). For each word: 1) read it aloud; and 2) discuss these two questions: What might you see that tells you someone is being _______? What might you hear that tells you someone is being _______?

   For example, you might say, “What might you see that tells you someone is being kind?” Students might say, “They are sharing toys” or “They are helping others.” Then ask, “What might you hear that tells you someone is being kind?” Students might say, “Kind words” or “Good job!”

Wrap-Up (7 min)

1. Name one of the statements from the poster. How could we show this on the playground? In the lunchroom? At home? Invite students to share their ideas.

2. How will it feel to be in our class when we are (say the words on the poster)? Give think-time. Call on students to share their ideas.

3. If you agree that this is how students should be in our classroom community, write your name on the poster. Call on students one at a time to sign the poster.

   Tip: Hang the poster in your classroom so students can remember how they want to behave in their classroom community.
Getting Started

Overview
What challenges do students face in returning to school after extended closures? Students’ sense of belonging at school is critical to their success as they reenter the classroom after this extended closure. Many, if not most, students are anxious about the challenges they might encounter. This lesson serves to counter those fears, reassure them their concerns are normal, and help them create a positive mindset that will increase their sense of belonging.

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Name one thing they are excited for this school year
- Name one thing they feel worried about
- Say one question they have about school this year

Prep

- Cut colorful paper into many 1.5 inch-long strips; these will be used to make a paper chain. Students will need 3 strips each.
- Students will each need a pencil and glue or tape to make their paper chain.

Lesson Note
School health and safety guidelines may make it difficult to create a paper chain. Other options include having students tape their responses to a wall or collecting class responses digitally to display as a word cloud.
Warm-Up (3 min.)

1. Tell students the purpose: Today we’re going to talk about being back at school, and how that feels.

2. You might feel a lot of different emotions coming back to school this year, like happy and nervous. We can feel these emotions at the same time. We can be happy to see our friends, and nervous about all the new rules.

3. Have students name different emotions they think their classmates might be feeling. Ask: What are some other emotions students might be feeling? Excited. Anxious.

4. All of these emotions are okay. This school year might feel different from other years. But remember that you are not alone, and that you can always talk to me, other teachers, and even your friends about how you feel.

Activity Instructions

Activity (5 min.)

1. Pass out 3 strips of different-colored paper to each student. We are going to write some of our thoughts and feelings about this year on these strips of paper. When we’re done, we’ll get to see what everyone wrote.

2. Take one of the strips of paper. On this paper, write one thing you are excited about this year. Give students time to write.

3. When you are done, put your pencil down and put your thumb up.

4. Tell the students what you are excited about this year. This year, I am excited about __________. Would anyone like to say what they feel excited about? Call on students who would like to answer.

5. Now take another strip of paper. On this paper, write down one thing you feel worried about. It could be the new rules, it could be staying healthy, or maybe it’s about being in a new grade. Give students time to write.

6. When you’re done, put your pencil down and your thumb up.

7. Worry tells us that we feel unsure about what might happen this year. Clap once if you feel worried about something this year. Students clap. It’s okay to feel worried. If your worry ever feels too big, you can talk to me, a friend, or an adult that you trust.

8. Now take one of your strips of paper and tape the ends together to make a ring. When you have made a ring, put your thumb up. Wait for kids to make a paper ring.

   Tip: Model for students how to make the paper ring under a document camera or by walking around so students can see an example.

9. Now you take the other paper you wrote on, thread it through the ring, and tape the ends together to make a paper chain. Model for students how to make a paper chain with their two strips of paper.
Discuss (5 min.)

1. Now take your last strip of paper. On this paper, write down a question you have about this school year. I will collect the questions and read them aloud. Give students time to write. Then collect the questions.

   Tip: If a student indicates they do not want their question read aloud, put it aside and address it with them privately.

2. Now I will answer some of your questions. If I have the answer, I will say it right now. If I don't have the answer, I will try to find one. Here are some questions you have this year. Read and answer questions as you can. Reassure students that you will try to find answers to all of their questions.

3. I'll use your question strips to connect your paper chains and make one big chain. I'll put this up in the classroom as our reminder that it's okay to feel different feelings at the same time, and that it's always okay to ask questions.

Wrap-Up (4 min.)

1. This school year might feel a little different. We have new rules, new routines, and new ways of doing things.

2. A lot of us are excited and worried about some of the same things. Think about who you can talk to or go to with your worries or your questions. Give think-time. Call on students to share who they can talk to both in and out of school, and name additional resources, such as the counselor.

3. Remember, all of the new things we are doing this year will help keep everyone safe and healthy. We will still have fun. We will still learn new things. I am so happy you are all here.

4. After the lesson, have a volunteer help you use the question strips to connect the students’ paper chains to create one big chain. Be sure to leave out or take a note of any unanswered questions so you can follow up with students after you’ve found the answers. Place the paper chain somewhere in the classroom as a visual reminder for students.
Lesson 4: Learning About Each Other with Art

Getting Started

Overview
Giving students an opportunity to express themselves and ask questions can help them identify what they have in common with each other and build community. This lesson encourages students to learn more about themselves and each other through art. Getting to know each other and building a classroom community can help provide students with a sense of safety and support.

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Ask questions to learn more about others
• Name a new thing they learned about someone in their classroom community

Prep
• Gather paper and art supplies for each student
• List these options on the board:
  • Draw things you like and things that are important to you
  • Make art that uses shapes and colors to show us who you are
• In a separate list, write these questions on the board:
  • What can you learn about other students in our class from their art?
  • What questions do you have about other students in our class?

Lesson Note
N/A
Warm-Up (2 min.)
1. Tell students the purpose: Today you’ll create a piece of art that will help other students in our class learn more about you. You’ll get to share what makes you who you are! Then you’ll say what you learned about each other and ask each other questions.

2. Show students the options on the board. You have two choices for your art project. You can draw things you like and things that are important to you, like your favorite foods or hobbies. That’s option 1. Or you can create a piece of art that uses shapes and colors to show who you are. That’s option 2.

Activity Instructions

Activity (10+ min.)
1. Give students art supplies and paper. Have students write their names clearly at the top of their papers.

2. Give students time to work on their art projects.
   
   Tip: While students work, ask questions about their art, let them know it doesn’t have to look perfect, and offer help as needed.

Discuss (10 min)
1. Now, we’ll walk around the room and look at each other’s art. Leave your art on your desk so that other students can see it. Point to the list of questions on the board. As you look at other students’ art, think about these questions: What are you learning about other students in our class from their art? What questions do you have about other students in our class? Have students walk slowly around the room and look at the art on each desk, then sit down when they reach their desk again.

2. Let’s talk about what you noticed. Clap once if you learned something new about other students in our class. Call on a few students to tell what they learned. It’s so interesting to learn about each of you!

3. Pat your head if you want to ask a question about another student’s art. Call on a few students who have questions. If needed, model for students. You might say something like, “I noticed that Chloe drew monkey bars. How many monkey bars can you do, Chloe?”

Wrap-Up (2 min.)
1. We learned a lot about other students in our class today! Name some things that students learned.

2. Learning more about each other helps us build our classroom community.
Lesson 5: Crayon Questions

Getting Started

Overview
In this lesson, students continue to express themselves and get to know their classmates. Asking questions about others and answering questions about themselves helps students learn about each other and feel like part of their class community. This increased sense of belonging is especially important in the current uncertain circumstances as it can help provide students with a sense of stability and comfort.

Objective
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Ask one to two questions to learn more about each other

Prep
• Gather crayons of many colors so each student has one

Lesson Note
The questions provided are suggestions. Feel free to replace or change any questions to meet your students’ interests.

Warm-Up (2 min.)
1. Tell students the purpose: Today you’ll practice asking and answering questions to learn more about each other.

2. When you ask the people in your community questions, you can learn more about them, find things in common, and make new friends!
Activity Instructions

Activity (18 min.)

1. Give each student a crayon. Hold up your crayon and say the color. Students respond. I have a list of questions that match the color of your crayon. When it’s your turn, you’ll show me your crayon color and I’ll read the question that matches it from my list.

2. After each student answers their question, you’ll ask them another question to get more information.

3. Remember, it’s important to pay attention to other people when they talk. That way you can learn about them and remember what they say. How can you show others you’re paying attention when they talk? Look at them. Not interrupt. Ask them questions. Those are great ideas!

4. I’ll go first. Tell students the color of your crayon, then read the matching question from the list below and answer it:
   - Red/orange: Who’s your hero? It can be someone you know or someone else you look up to.
   - Green/yellow: What makes you happy?
   - Blue/purple: What’s your favorite way to help others?
   - Black/gray: What’s your favorite place to visit?
   - Whitelypink: Would you rather play in water, sand, or snow?
   - Brown/beige: What’s your favorite song to sing?

5. Now someone can ask me a question about my answer! Call on a student to ask a follow-up question and tell them your answer.

6. Now it’s your turn! Invite a student to show you their crayon. Ask them the question from the list above that matches their crayon color. For example, “Your crayon is green. Your question is: what makes you happy?”

7. After they have answered, ask students: Does anyone have any more questions for _______?
   Tip: If needed, offer suggestions like, “What’s your favorite thing about that?” or “When was the last time you did that?”

8. Call on other students. Ask the questions above based on their crayon color, and help the other students ask follow-up questions. Continue until all students have answered a question.

Wrap-Up (5 min.)

1. What did we do to learn more about each other? Ask questions. Pay attention to each other. What’s something new that you learned? Dominico’s hero is his grandma. Aya likes to do puzzles.

2. Asking people questions shows them you care about their interests and their ideas. This week, try to ask more questions to get to know the students in our class community.
Next Steps

Completing this unit is just one thing you can do to support your students during this difficult time. Here are some other steps you can take:

1. **Use the Second Step® SEL for Adults Resiliency Module:** You cannot support your students without also taking care of your own needs. This module, which is free through 12/31/20, will provide you with concrete strategies to manage your own stress during this difficult time. For more information and updates, please visit our resource page.

2. **Teach the Student-Facing Resiliency Lessons.** The Second Step SEL for Adults Resiliency Module also contains lessons for students to help them manage their stress. Once you have completed the module yourself use these lessons with your students.

3. **Complete Second Step® Elementary.** The skills and concepts taught throughout the Second Step program will provide students with valuable social-emotional support throughout the year.

For more information, download the Second Step Elementary 2020–2021 Implementation Plan.
Safe Supportive Learning
Respond to Behaviors in a Supportive Way

Self-Check
Do a Self-Check to calm down so you can respond to a student’s behavior in a supportive way.

1. Stop
2. Name your feeling
3. Calm down: breathe, count

Student Check
Do a Student Check to help you reframe a student’s behavior so you can understand what the behavior is telling you. Thinking of the behavior through a supportive frame rather than a corrective frame can help you respond appropriately and avoid blaming or punishing students for their behavior.

Corrective Frame  Supportive Frame
This student is a problem.  What is this student experiencing in his or her life?
What's wrong with this student?  What is this student trying to say with his or her behavior?
I need to correct this student's behavior.  I need to support this student.

Respond
Once you've done the Self-Check and Student Check, you're ready to respond to a student's behavior in a supportive way by:

• Listening
• Showing empathy
• Providing support
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