



# Responsive Classroom® Morning Meeting Plan to Celebrate International SEL Day

## Goals and Implementation Tips

Morning Meeting allows for a predictable time for students and teachers alike to build community. The goals of Morning Meeting are to:

- Set a tone for respectful and engaged learning in a climate of trust.
- Create the positive power of community by fulfilling students' needs to belong, to feel significant, and to have fun.
- Model and practice social and emotional skills.
- Merge social, emotional, and academic learning.

The following plan for Morning Meeting is designed to develop the five social-emotional competencies: cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control. You will see each competency noted by the Morning Meeting component it connects to, along with further resources to explore for more ideas.

As you implement Morning Meeting, remember to focus on the process as opposed to perfection. When you make mistakes, students will see you as a learner, and this will build trust and mutual respect. Adjust the plan as needed to fit your students' needs, and keep the goals for Morning Meeting in mind.



### Assertiveness

## Greeting

### One-Minute Greeting (from [The Morning Meeting Book](#))

Students mingle and say, "Good morning, \_\_\_\_\_" to as many other students as they can in one minute. Encourage students to greet people they don't normally greet each day. So that the pace doesn't get too frantic, emphasize the importance of standing still and looking at each other with a friendly smile when greeting someone.

### Virtual Tip:

Students can greet each other around the screen by taking the initiative to name the person they are greeting. You can start by saying good morning to one person ("Good morning, \_\_\_\_\_") and giving that student a chance to unmute and return the greeting. Then, let students know that the person you greeted will pick a person to greet in the same way. Encourage students to greet people they don't normally greet each day. Consider asking those who have been greeted to put a thumb up so students can remember who has been greeted. Continue until every person has been greeted.



### Empathy

## Sharing

### What's Your Perspective? (from [Doing Social Studies in Morning Meeting](#))

In advance, prepare index cards that have one of the following roles: student, teacher, cafeteria monitor, and custodian. Make enough for each student to have one.

1. Introduce the sharing: "Today, we're going to play the role of different people in our school and imagine what we might do in different situations."
2. Explain how to do the sharing: "We'll all stand up, and I'll give each of you a role card. Then I'll name different situations that might happen here at school. If I call your role, give a thumbs-up. For each situation, I'll call on one or two people in different roles to share their ideas about what they would do. After you share, sit down."

3. Pass out the role cards and ask: “What are some ways we can be respectful to one another as we share?”
4. Pose a situation: “You notice that it is getting very loud in the cafeteria during lunch time. What might you do to help students enjoy their lunch in a quieter way?” Give students time to think.
5. Say: “Teacher, what’s your perspective?” Call on one or two students with a teacher role card to share. Continue to pose different situations and call out different roles until all students have shared.

**Virtual Tip:**

- Introduce the sharing: “Today, we’re going to play the role of different people in our school and imagine what we might do in different situations. You can play a student, a teacher, a cafeteria monitor, or a custodian.”
- Explain how students will choose their roles: “In a moment, I will ask you to raise your hand to tell me which role you would like.” Give students some time to think, and then allow them to choose the one they are interested in. They can raise their hands to show you which role they want, or even rename themselves with their role (e.g. “Student Jamie,” “Teacher Alex”).
- Then, explain how to do the sharing: “I will name different situations that might happen here at school. If I call your role, put up your thumb. For each situation, I’ll call on one or two people in different roles to unmute and share their ideas about what they would do.”
- Proceed with the rest of the activity as written.

**Variation:**

- Substitute other school roles such as principal, guidance counselor, art teacher, or athletic coach.
- Invite students to brainstorm other school situations with different roles and perspectives, and use those for a future sharing or another time in your school day.



**Cooperation**



**Self-Control**

**Activity**

**Coseeki/Follow the Leader (from *The Morning Meeting Book*)**

One student leaves the circle and stands where she cannot see the group. The group chooses a leader who does a movement, such as tapping his toe, which the others follow. The leader changes the movement regularly and the others follow his movement. The hidden student returns, stands in the middle of the group, watches the movements, and tries to guess who the leader is. If she doesn’t guess correctly after three tries, reveal the leader to limit frustration and keep the activity positive.

**Virtual Tip:**

You can play this game virtually by asking the guesser to leave the screen for a moment. Direct message the student you choose to be the leader and ask that student to wave to the group, while verbally telling the group that the leader is the person waving. From there, the game proceeds as it would in person. You may want to ask students to stand or encourage hand and head movements that are easy to see. You can support students by brainstorming, and then putting in the chat, a few movement choices that work well on the screen, like tapping your shoulders, nodding your head, clapping, etc.

**Variations:**

- Have more than one guesser and have them confer before guessing.
- Have two leaders take turns starting new movements. The guess tries to identify both leaders.
- Use movements that make no sound.

**Responsibility****Message**

(Adapted from [80 Morning Meeting Ideas for Grades 3-6](#))

Display the message on a whiteboard or screen prior to the meeting.

[Date]

Dear Responsible Students,

Happy International SEL Day! Today, we will think about SEL (social and emotional learning) and the ways we take care of ourselves and each other. What is one thing you do to help someone else in your family, your class, or your community? Write one way you are responsible in the space below.

Your teacher,

[Name]

Read the message aloud together. Engage in a discussion about responsibility. You might encourage students to set a goal to show responsibility in some way that day. Consider holding a closing circle at the end of the day for students to share how they achieved their goals.

**Virtual Tip:**

Encourage students to share their ideas in the chat box or take a few volunteers to share their ideas out loud with the group.