

Constructing a New School Year

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On the first day of school, I wear a construction hard hat as I greet my students. I tell them that starting a new school year is like building a house. Our personal relationships make up the foundation and frame, while the interior comes from our school decorations. We discuss the importance of each element, and I stress that the new house won't stand if something falls apart. Then we talk about building codes, and the students design a set of rules as their "building code" for the room. If we have problems during the year, I tell students that the house might collapse and we discuss the "building code" to reinforce the class rules.

