

5 END OF THE YEAR IDEAS TO STAY ENGAGED

The school year is coming to an end and things can get a little crazy. Due to snow days, grades could be closed before the actual end of school so there is little to be accountable for. Provide them with experiences that enrich their lives and expand their brains.

We all know that without engagement, behavior problems can become an issue, and trying to be more entertaining than the idea of summer vacation, can be difficult. Here's 5 ideas that will help you stay engaged all the way to the last day.

1 STEAM CHALLENGES!

These types of challenges can keep the mind active while summer is knocking at the door. Because they are inquiry-based, there are many ways to approach the problem and invite collaborative learning opportunities.

- Stick Bombs: Explosive Kinetic Engineering and Chain Reactions [CLICK HERE](#)
- Musical STEAM with the Cricket in Times Square [CLICK HERE](#)
- Base Ten Buildings: A STEAM Activity [CLICK HERE](#)
- 3 Creative Ways to Introduce STEAM Activities [CLICK HERE](#)
- STEAM Design Challenge: Kinetic Wind Sculptures [CLICK HERE](#)
- Team Challenges: How and Why I Implemented This in my Classroom [CLICK HERE](#)

2 COLLABORATE!

In addition to providing opportunities for teamwork, these large scale projects can be wonderful opening day displays for the beginning of the next year.

- Create a Mural: Check this Pinterest Board [CLICK HERE](#)
- Paint Rocks and Create a Path Around Your School. Find an example at Bored Panda, "Every Student From This Elementary School Had To Paint One Rock In His Own Style, And Here's The Result" [CLICK HERE](#)
- Create a Collaborative Grid Portrait of Teachers and Administrators for the next year. Find out how. [CLICK HERE](#)

3 GO OUTSIDE!

Embrace the sunshine and foster students' need for play with activities that can be done outdoors.

- Do Observational Drawings from Nature
- Use Objects found in nature to create sculptures
- Try Messy Activities Like...
- Pendulum Paintings [CLICK HERE](#)
- Lava Lamps [CLICK HERE](#)
- Water Balloon Painting [CLICK HERE](#)

4 WRITE!

Create postcards of encouragement or advice for other students. These can be addressed to the students coming in next year or for someone over the summer. The postcards can be addressed to teachers from previous years or administrators.

Benefits:

- Provides Student Feedback
- Uses Design Skills with Technology or with Visual Art Skills
- Works on Letter Writing

5 PLUG IN!

Sometimes it is good to end the year with some technology play and educational roundups.

- Gamestar Mechanic: Find out more about it [CLICK HERE](#)
- This is a wonderful way to end the year. It is a video game creation program on the computer that is sure to entertain those restless kiddos.
- Kahoot!: Find out more about it [CLICK HERE](#)
- Have students pair up and create a Kahoot! for their classmates.
- Infographics: Find out more about them [CLICK HERE](#)
- Design an Infographic about the content you learned in class this year. Maybe it could outline for future students what the class is all about.

The end of the year can be crazy busy and a little like herding cats, but hopefully with these 5 ideas to stay engaged can allow everyone involved to sail into a happy summer vacation.