



Strategy Tool: Greeting Students at the Door

Classroom Greetings - Example

- 1 Begin by thinking of ways to greet students that you are comfortable doing and you think the students would enjoy. Feel free to make up your own greetings (they can be silly if you choose). Be sure to choose a variety: some can include physical contact while others do not.

Complete the chart below with the types of greetings you'll use, what each of those will look like (to aid in teaching each one to the students), and the visual you will create for each.

Greeting Type	What It Looks Like	Visual
Hug	Side hugs only—arms around student's shoulder	Heart
High five	Single-handed, gentle (no noise) or no contact "air five"	Hand holding up 5 fingers
Fist bump	Single-handed, gentle	Fist with knuckles facing front
Wave	Simple hand wave or waving of the entire arm in a zig-zag motion in front of body (like an ocean wave)	Ocean wave
Thumbs up	Student and teacher give each other thumbs up (can touch thumbs or not)	Hand with thumb up
Handshake	Regular handshake or make up a silly one to teach the class	Picture of handshake (hands only)
Milk the cow	Student gives double thumbs down with hands together (making udders); teacher gives one quick pull on the thumbs; switch roles	Cow



Double Check

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- 2 Using the completed chart, create a visual aid with the symbols for each greeting you chose. This visual will be used to teach students each of the choices and when the greetings will be used.
- 3 Post your visual next to the spot where you plan to stand while you greet students.
- 4 Be sure you are outside or just inside your classroom door before the first student enters your room and stay there until all students are inside (or at least all visible students). Direct students to the visual of possible choices when they enter the room until choosing becomes a routine.