



WE ARE MANY UNITED

September 2025 Addition:
Back to School and Hispanic Heritage Month



WELCOME WALLS

Creating Visible Belonging

A Welcome Wall is a powerful way to begin the year by making students feel seen. Invite each student to contribute something that represents who they are (an artifact, a drawing, a quote, a family saying, or a photo). Over time, the wall becomes a living gallery of student identity, reminding everyone that every person belongs.

Tip: Try a bulletin board in your classroom, or build a digital wall using Padlet, Jamboard, or Google Slides.

Welcome Wall Resources

- [Identity Portraits Lesson](#)
- [Digital Padlet Tutorial](#)
- [Why Representation in Classrooms Matters](#)

BELONGING INTERVIEWS *Students as Storytellers*

Kick off the year with belonging interviews that center student voice. Pair students to interview each other about their experiences, interests, and goals, then have them introduce their partner to the class. This simple activity helps students make connections beyond surface-level introductions and builds a foundation of empathy and care.

Guiding questions: What's something you're proud of? What's a goal you have for this year? What's one thing you want others to know about you?

Belonging Interview Resources

- [Harvard's Project Zero: Making Learning Visible](#)
- [Getting to Know Students Beyond the Surface](#)
- [Listening Deeply to Build Belonging](#)

**Open the
underlined links
to learn more.**

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month is a chance to celebrate the cultures, histories, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Enrich your classroom with stories, art, literature, and voices that highlight both past and present contributions. Idea: Spotlight a local Latino leader or community group and invite them to share their story. **Click on the photos for additional resources.**



What is Hispanic Heritage Month?



Why is Hispanic Heritage Month Important?



How can I celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?

A NOTE FROM EMILY

So much is changing in our schools, communities, cities, and country. One thing has not changed. Our students arrive every day and deserve to feel loved, known, and like they belong. When students experience belonging, they also experience safety, and real learning can take root.

This year, We Are Many United is focusing on the connection between belonging and school safety. Future newsletters will highlight practical tools and training that build both. If your team would like a presentation or planning session, I am happy to join you and tailor it to your context.

Here in Platteville, we are partnering with the "I Love You Guys" Foundation to strengthen our safety practices. I would love to share those resources with you and help your school adapt them in ways that center student connection and care.

Thank you for leading with steadiness and heart. You guide the conditions that help students feel safe, seen, and ready to learn. I am available for Zoom, email, or a quick call anytime.

Warmly,
Emily

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<http://www.united-against-hate.org/>