# CS-TAC Coffee Hour Notes 6-3-20

Thank you all for joining us at this week's CS-TAC Virtual Coffee Hour. Thank you also to *Jen Curry, CEO/Founder of Change Impact* [Change Impact](#), our featured guest 👋

Below you will find a recap of shared practices and resources. Please note the *new* embedded links that showcase example templates. Thank you to all who shared their amazing work with us this week!

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**Practices Shared**

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**Engaging Students Remotely: Helpful Tips for Educators and Youth Workers:**

1. **Lessons & Activities**
   - Consider transitions, activity, movement, & relationship building
   - [Playworks](#)
   - Backup plans: extension activities, tech back up, plan a PDF ahead of time, know the content of videos etc so can give synopsis if tech doesn't work: this all increases comfort with virtual training!
   - Connections: concept of physical distancing not social distancing
   - Keep it fun: trivia, games, videos, dance breaks
   - "Find something within reach that reminds you of a happy memory" and share out
2. **Equity & Inclusion**
   - Zaretta Hammond-[Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain](#)
   - Impact of stress on the brain & learning-once students

experience stress, cortisol released and uptake of learning impacted (~20min-several hours)
- IEP considerations:
  - Modifications for virtual platforms: closed captioning, written directions in chat box, sending instructions ahead of time, pre-planned questions
  - Use universal design

- Policies to promote inclusion
  - Blank walls/backgrounds on virtual meetings
  - Materials: consider if asking homes to provide
  - Meals: suggest meals offline not shared
  - Consider creating norms rather than dealing with individual concerns

3. **Technology**
  - Audio working/check?
  - Close unnecessary windows/programs
  - Maintain eye contact with camera
  - Background check

Link to additional resources:
https://www.nyscommunityschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Change-Impact-Virtual-Programming-Resources.pdf

Link to Jen's PPT:
https://www.nyscommunityschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/C_WNY-Coffee-Hour_-Engaging-Students-Remotely.pdf

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Additional practices (thanks Mark Learo & Katherine Junevic!):
- Supporting students comfort with the virtual classroom: encourage cameras off, be aware of student concern for backgrounds, haircuts, environments & feelings of not wanting to be on camera
- Host daily check ins-non academic! Q & A's, drop-ins, social hours
- Virtual talent show: participation by students that may not normally go up on stage
- Acknowledgment that some students are doing very well learning at home vs school buildings, some are not-considerations for this as re-open
- Summer skill building-finding virtual opportunities
- Hosting virtual Parent Chats

## Upcoming VIRTUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Ali Hearn-CS-TAC Kickoff Event

- Coffee Hour: Ron Cope, Children's Aid & CS team-last one for the year!

- Liane Benedict-Citi BOCES-Strategies for Mindfulness in the School Setting

- Save the date!: 6/23 @ 1pm *Culturally Responsive Family Engagement during COVID 19* with Monique Fletcher from the National Center for Community Schools

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