



# Life Hacks: Classroom Edition

(aka Making EVERY minute count)



# Hello!

I am Kelly Ferguson

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# Seating Arrangements

WHY are your desks the way they are?

WHAT does your room arrangement say about your class priorities?





# Seating Arrangements

## Rows

- Encourage individual work
  - Minimize cheating opportunity
  - Effective for demos, tests, presentations
  - Easy to supervise
- 
- × Discourages discussion & group work
  - × Easily lose focus
  - × Uneven distribution of interaction
  - × Difficult for T to get to SS

## Big U

- \*Easier to interact w/ whole class
  - \*Encourages discussion
  - \*Fosters connection between T and SS
  - \*Large “stage” area for demos/presentations
- 
- × Not suitable for small group work.
  - × May overwhelm/overstimulate shy
  - × May be hard to control behavior
  - × Difficult for large classes to fit/discuss

## Pods

- \*Encourages student interaction
  - \*Creates more personal space & safe environment for students to express ideas.
  - \*Promotes collaboration/teamwork
  - \*Flexible for strategic grouping
  - \*Good for small spaces
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- × Increased noise, distraction
  - × Less individual accountability

## 2. Routines

Train 'em right



# Morning Meeting

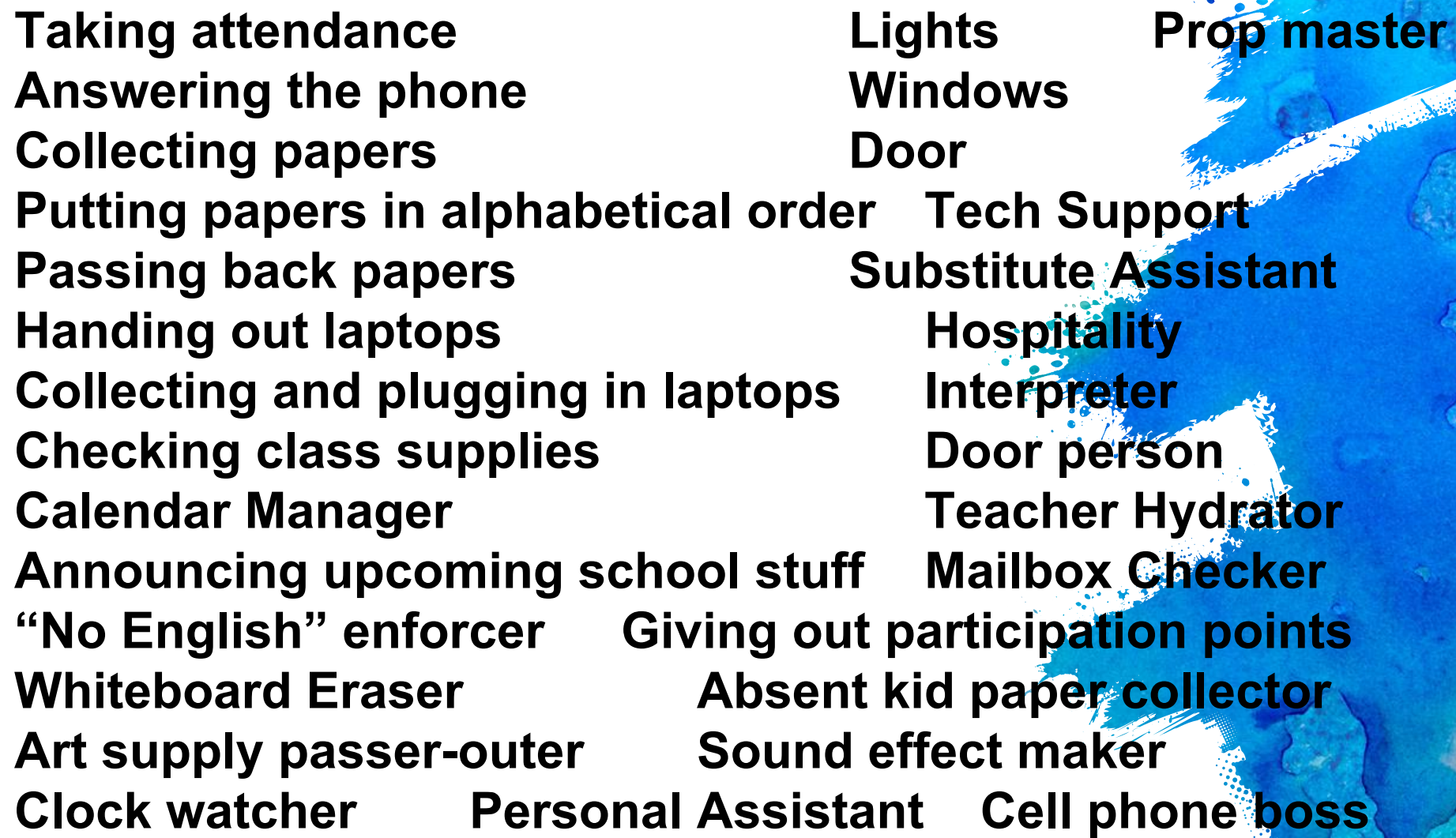
## Aka Circle of Power & Respect

1. Greeting
2. Sharing
3. Activity
4. Daily News

# Student Jobs

What things happen frequently in your room that do NOT require a college degree to do?





<b>Taking attendance</b>	<b>Lights</b>	<b>Prop master</b>
<b>Answering the phone</b>	<b>Windows</b>	
<b>Collecting papers</b>	<b>Door</b>	
<b>Putting papers in alphabetical order</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>	
<b>Passing back papers</b>	<b>Substitute Assistant</b>	
<b>Handing out laptops</b>	<b>Hospitality</b>	
<b>Collecting and plugging in laptops</b>	<b>Interpreter</b>	
<b>Checking class supplies</b>	<b>Door person</b>	
<b>Calendar Manager</b>	<b>Teacher Hydrator</b>	
<b>Announcing upcoming school stuff</b>	<b>Mailbox Checker</b>	
<b>“No English” enforcer</b>	<b>Giving out participation points</b>	
<b>Whiteboard Eraser</b>	<b>Absent kid paper collector</b>	
<b>Art supply passer-outer</b>	<b>Sound effect maker</b>	
<b>Clock watcher</b>	<b>Personal Assistant</b>	<b>Cell phone boss</b>



# 3.

## Manage & Maintain

Keep things moving smoothly



# Bathroom Passes

4 passes per quarter

Any unused ones can convert into 1 point extra credit OR be used to purchase prizes.



# Prizes for Sale

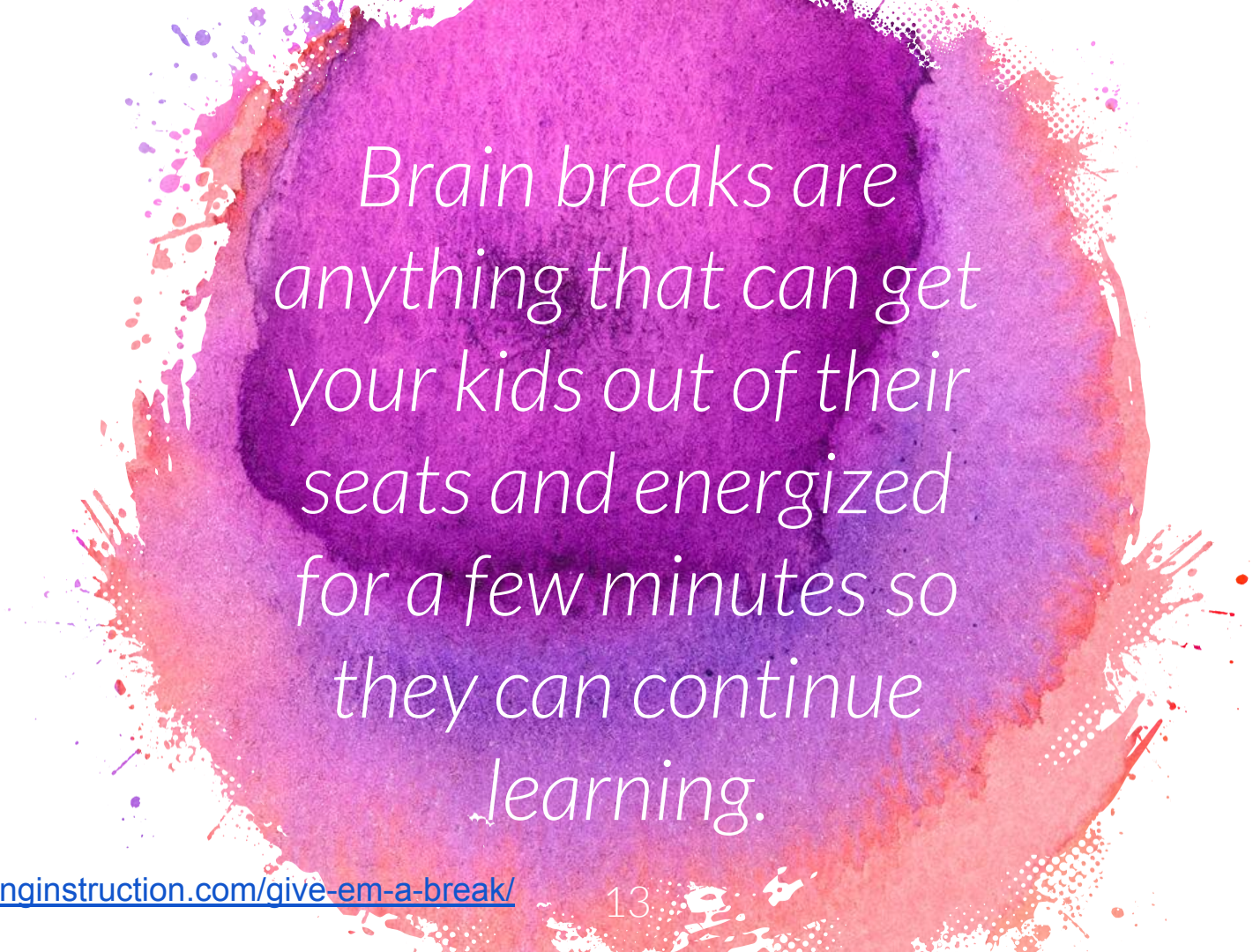
- \*Week of free warm ups
- \*Day to sit in my comfy chair
- \*Brownies
- \*Plan a day of class
- \*Pick a song we will study
- \*Choose your seat for a day

**CHEAP AND EASY!!**

# How to earn more passes?







Brain breaks are  
anything that can get  
your kids out of their  
seats and energized  
for a few minutes so  
they can continue  
learning.



# Teacher vs. Class

Earns points  
for:

Cell phone use

Off-task

Rude language

WHATEVER  
doesn't meet  
expectations

Earns points  
for:

Working hard

Being on task

Using TL

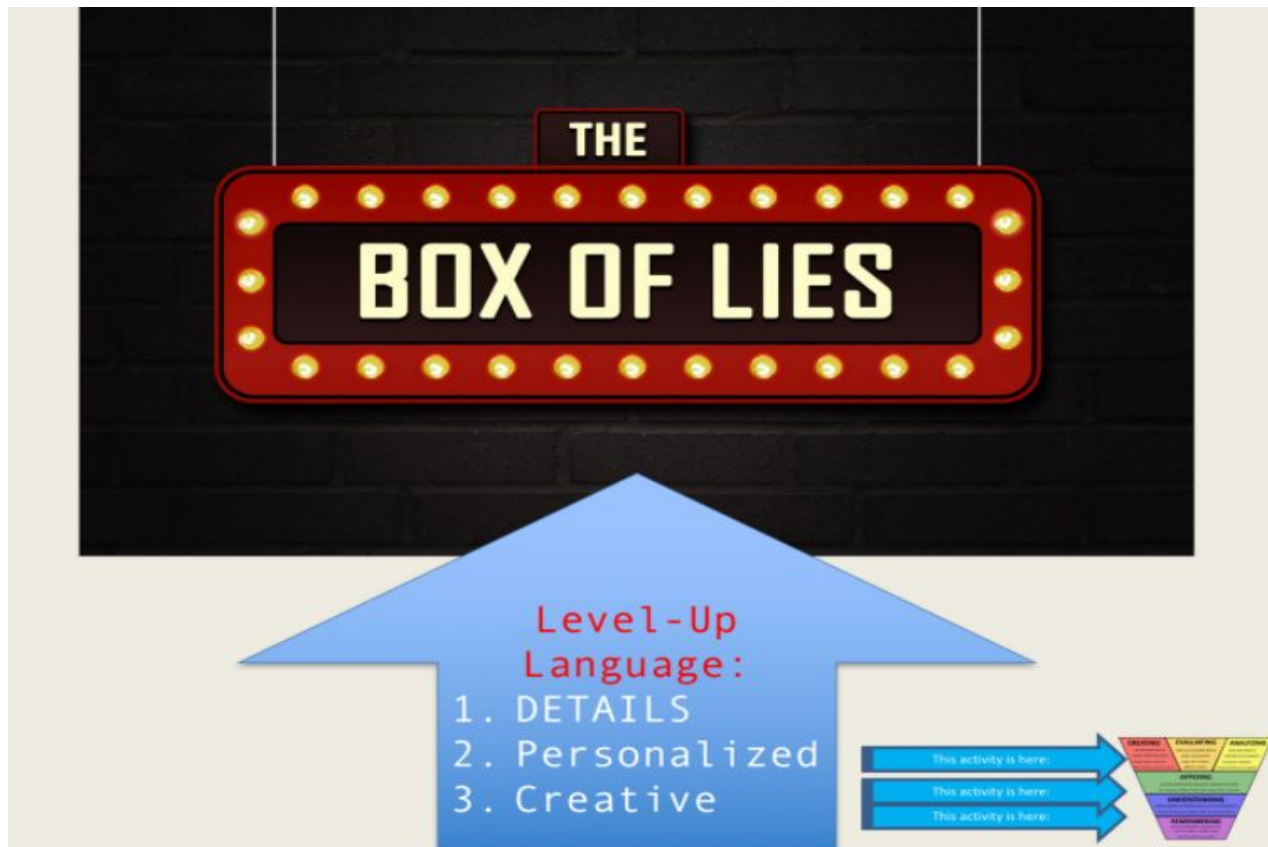


4.

## Variety & Familiarity

Keep it fun, keep it comfortable





<https://twitter.com/PRHSspanish/status/798958911097339906>

# Stations Example



# Weekly routines w/ Novelty

Movie Monday

Music Monday

Movement Monday

Minute-to-win-it Monday

Menu Monday

Tunes Tuesday

Timed writing Tuesday

Test Tuesday

Wacky Wednesday

World News Wednesday

Work Time Wednesday

Think out of the box Thursday

Throwback Thursday

Technology Thursday

Fun Friday

Feature Film Friday

Foto Friday

Funny Friday

Free Write Friday








5.

## Relationships

It's all about this, in the end.





“Students who are  
loved at home come  
to school to learn.  
Students who aren’t,  
come to school to be  
loved.”

-Nicholas Ferroni

# Some little things...

Use student names (positive!)

Use student artwork or stories

Class social media



# Passwords





# Special Person

Interview students...make class  
about them!

You never want  
to get on a plane  
where the pilot  
learned to fly  
from worksheets.



via @toddwhitaker

@justintarte

[www.brycehedstrom.com](http://www.brycehedstrom.com) “Persona Especial”



# RECAP & SPRINGBOARD

**What are you going  
to take away from  
this session?**

**What do you see in  
a different way?**

**What is one thing you will  
totally for sure try to maybe  
remember to use sometime in  
your class unless you're so  
overwhelmed by life that you  
totally forget about it until a  
month from now and don't  
remember what it was to  
begin with?**

# THANKS!

Any questions?

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