

STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE GEN Z AND GEN ALPHA ART STUDENTS

Gen Z

Born from the mid-90s to early 2010, Gen Z is the first generation of digital natives known for their technological savvy, pragmatism, adaptability, activism, and resilience.

- Invite participation in collaborative brainstorming and artmaking with an emphasis on community projects.
- Encourage artistic and interpersonal dialogue about controversial topics.
- Integrate cross-curricular approaches such as literacy, Design Thinking, and STEAM.
- Allow space for students to express concerns about inequities in both a classroom and global context.
- Increase choice to develop agency and confidence through risk-taking and trying new things.
- Plan activities that involve self-reflection, meaning-making, and identity expression.

Gen Alpha

Born entirely in the 21st Century from late 2010 to 2025, Gen Alpha will likely be the largest and smartest generation yet, marked by independence and a value for connection.

- Integrate games in your lessons and classroom management to keep students engaged and intrigued.
- Delegate roles and responsibilities to model working as a community and teach collaboration skills.
- Allow flexible deadlines with the support of time management and communication skill-building.
- Add screen-free activities and unstructured play to give students a break from technology.
- Plan family- and community-oriented art nights or art show activities.
- Build in opportunities for in-person small talk and conversation to grow class connections.

Well-Being for Gen Z and Gen Alpha

Mental, emotional, and physical well-being is a rising concern for children raised in the screen age of the 21st Century.

- Start class with a mindfulness activity, like a mantra or meditation.
- Adopt visual journaling to document life and process emotions.
- Slow down projects to enjoy the artmaking process and reduce brain load.
- Set aside time on a regular basis to talk to, connect with, and listen to your students.
- Practice visualization and breathing exercises for a more mindful classroom.