Everyday Collaborative Activities for Middle School
Developing social emotional skills for students requires students being in social emotional situations.

Incorporating collaborative activities that last from 3 min to the class period can be implemented in all content areas.
Collaboration Technique Cards

Classroom Collaboration Kit

Facilitator  Recorder  Time Keeper
Material Manager  Reporter  Checker

Whole Child  ●  Whole School  ●  Whole Community
The first piece of the Collaboration Kit that was developed was the 28 Techniques for Collaboration Cards for use in all classrooms and at all grade levels.

They include online suggestions and additional sites for resources to support collaboration in the classroom.
Creating Effective Collaborative Activities

Possible Student Roles Within the Group

**Facilitator**
Keeps group on task and verifies that all contribute.

**Recorder**
Takes notes on important thoughts expressed in the group.
Writes final summary.

**Reporter**
Shares summary of group with large group. Speaks for the group, not just personal view.

**Materials Manager**
Picks up, distributes, collects, turns in, or puts away materials.

**Time Keeper**
Keeps track of time and reminds group how much time is left.

**Checker**
Checks for accuracy and clarity of thinking during discussions.
Checks written work and tracks points.
60 Second-Strategy: Cooperative Learning Roles

60-SECOND STRATEGY
COOPERATIVE LEARNING ROLES
Discussion Guidelines

When speaking, participants:
- sustain a main idea
- be original with interesting, provoking ideas.
- have quality in their comments
- include textual references—the quotation, with reference to paragraph numbers, the be
- make reference to other works
- maintain the accuracy of the question for greater unders

Agreement

Disagreement

Clarifications

Confirmation

Confusion

Extension

Review

“I want to go back to what ______ said.”
“I like ________.”
“I noticed that _________.”
“Can you tell me more about ________.”

In a collegial conversation, participants:
- are consistence in participation
- support leadership—does the student help others enter the discussion
- show empathy
- have the ability to learn and adjust to the dynamics of the class
- show humility
- incorporate politeness and respect for all members of the class
- maintain eye contact and call others by their names
- show patience with the process. (It takes some time to develop a group dynamic where everyone feels at ease.)
- demonstrate preparedness—books and articles marked, responses written, questions prepared.
- take risks. They are prepared to ask questions that seem obvious or silly and can provoke dissent. Willing to state own ideas even if different from those of other students or the teacher.

Whole Community
Random Groups

What happens when you try to randomly count off students to place students into groups?
Student Sorting Sticks
What if this happens?
The number of each stick so replacement of missing stick will be easy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Two Teams</th>
<th>4 Groups – Use the Top Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use Numbers</td>
<td>6 Groups – Use the SHAPES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Groups – Use the COLOR of the shape</td>
<td>5 Groups – Use the Transportation Icons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners – Match the Alphabet Letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Groups – Use the Sports Icon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stacking the Sticks

Dividing the Class of 25 students into 5 groups. (5 students in each group)
Sorting... another option

2 TEAMS

Stack the Deck... 3 groups... etc.
Breakout Games

MISSION #4

Baseball Players
The average weight of nine players on a baseball team is 177 pounds.
Find the total weight of the nine players.
Show your work.

1. The mean weight of nine players on a baseball team is 177 pounds.
   Find the total weight of the nine players.
   Show your work.

2. The mean weight of the nine players and three reserve players is 158 pounds.
   Find the mean weight of the three reserve players.
   Show how you figured it out.

3. The opposing baseball team has nine players whose weights, in pounds, are 174, 177, 194, 162, 190, 169, 187, 192, 178.
   Find the median and the range of these weights.
   median ___________ range ___________
Match Numbers or text....sometimes “text” is better than numbers even for MATH
Collaboration in the Classroom Activity Card

Talking Chips

Choose a discussion topic:

Using Collaboration everyday in the classroom….How and why?

Implementing Illinois Learning Standards in your grade level….what has worked well and what needs some improvement?

All students should be able to drive when they start high school….good or bad idea?
Who’s Who in WWII

Can you decode these names and then “find” the secret word?

hkvsm opasly
johyslz kl nhbssl
ilupav tbzvspup
myhurspu k. yvvzlcisa
olythu nviypun
kdpnoa k. lpzluovdly
dpuzavu jobyjopss
huul myhur
avrv f yvzl
ohyyf z. aybthu

Secret word: ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______ ______

http://bit.ly/2grvXVt
Collaboration in the Classroom Activity Card

Round Table

1. Each group has a piece of paper and a pencil to share.
2. Time Keeper set the time for 3 minutes
3. When the category is revealed each participant writes one answer on the paper and then passes the paper to the next person “around” the table. Continue until the time keeper call time for your

First round:

Second round:

After the TIME KEEPER calls time the CHECKER looks for duplicates and then counts the number of items. The REPORT then takes the paper and STANDS to show that the group is ready.
Tools and Resources for
ELA
MATH
Science
Social Science
Social Emotional Learning
Technology
Fine Arts

www.ilclassroomsinaction.org