COLLABORATIVE LEARNING:
AN EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS

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One of the most significant aspects in the field of teaching is motivating the students. Probably most of the teachers have encountered students who are bored, inattentive and uninterested in the class. Relatively, these students won’t reap the benefits from their academic learning experience unless teachers take action to address their lack of motivation. In a different view, students who are intrinsically or extrinsically motivated show better comprehension on the concepts they are taught and attain higher level of interest which leads them to excel academically.

According to Pintrich, teachers should: “Provide stimulating and interesting tasks, activities, and materials, including some novelty and variety in tasks and activities.” Pintrich also noted “highlights the importance of peer groups and interactions with other students as important contexts for the shaping and development of motivation, a context that has tended to be ignored . . .” He is implying the greater use of collaborative group work yields opportunities to attain both social and academic goals. One of the best ways to make it in our class is through Collaborative Learning. Wikipedia says “Collaborative learning is a situation in which two or more people learn or attempt to learn something together. It includes collaborative writing, group projects, joint problem solving, debates, study teams, and other activities.”
Here’s a quick run-down of the benefits we can acquire through Collaborative Learning Activities:

Enhances Problem-solving Skills

This can be acquired during group discussion; the students are encouraged to listen attentively to their group members’ views and comments. Each member also contributes to the sharing and thus re-evaluates their ideas and come to conclusions.

Inspires Critical Thinking

Teachers will witness the students clarifying their own ideas, views, and opinions through their discussion forums before making a conclusion. As a result, it nurtures critical thinking skills through interpreting their ideas and assessing other student’s thoughts and views.

Improves Social Interactions and Supports Diversity

Involves the use of different strategies of such like Jigsaw technique, a system of designing classroom activities wherein students rely on each other to accomplish the tasks. The students will form groups wherein each group will do a part of the job for the whole class to create a complete activity just like a jigsaw puzzle. Generally, this type of activity provides students to enthusiastically help each other in their respective group skills and thus gives them chance to socialize and be motivated.
Fosters the Development of Interpersonal Relationships

In a natural set-up, students are fond to engage in casual conversation which fosters the development of interpersonal relationships and this can happen before and after the group activities. This is healthy for them to create genuine friendship within the group which can boost group morale motivating them in their performance. When students make friendship this creates a symbiotic relationship that builds trust and sense of belonging.

These are just few of the benefits of Collaborative Learning and through this method teachers can effectively involve every student in their class by keeping them motivated every single time they spend in the school. Motivation can come naturally, but it is the role of the teachers to provide the fuel that can give spark to the students.

References:


https://www.lexialearning.com/blog/how-motivate-students-using-competitive-and-collaborative-activities