

# COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course:** Motivating and Engaging Students

**Presenters:** Dr. Robert J. Marzano and Dr. Debra J. Pickering

**Hours:** 45

**Required eBook:** *The Highly Engaged Classroom* (Marzano and Pickering, Marzano Research Lab, 2011)

## Course Overview

If students are not engaged, there is little if any chance for meaningful achievement. But student engagement is not chance, especially for students disinclined to be engaged; it requires a teacher's careful planning and execution of specific strategies. In this course, educators will learn to create classroom environments in which engagement is the norm. Interviews with teachers and students, classroom footage, workshop activities, lecture, and the accompanying eBook bring to life this critical subject for the educator who aspires to engage all of his or her students in all of their learning.

Implicitly—and sometimes explicitly—students ask themselves four questions that determine how engaged they are in the classroom:

- How do I feel?
- Am I interested?
- Is this important?
- Can I do this?

Educators will learn to facilitate such emotions for students as enthusiasm, interest, enjoyment, satisfaction, and pride, so that those students can answer, “how do I feel?” in the affirmative. They will learn to raise their students' energy levels, demonstrate a positive demeanor, express their own enthusiasm, and use humor to create a classroom culture in which all students are accepted and challenged. To promote their students' authentic interest, educators will learn to use games, inconsequential competitions, friendly controversy, unusual information, and effective questioning strategies. To help their students embrace what they're learning as important, educators will study how to engage their students in setting goals, one of the primary motivators for academic achievement. They'll learn to incorporate cognitively demanding, real-world tasks into instruction that clarify the relevance of what students are learning. Educators will also be prepared to help their students develop strong feelings of self-efficacy, not through superfluous praise, but through making students aware of their potential futures which they can affect through their own efforts.

## Presenters' Bios

**Dr. Robert J. Marzano** is the cofounder and CEO of Marzano Research Laboratory in Denver, Colorado. Throughout his forty years in the field of education, he has become a speaker, trainer, and author of more than thirty books and 150 articles on topics such as instruction, assessment, writing, and implementing



standards, cognition, effective leadership, and school intervention. His books include: *The Art and Science of Teaching: A Comprehensive Framework for Effective Instruction*, *Making Standards Useful in the Classroom*, *District Leadership That Works: Striking the Right Balance*, *Designing and Teaching Learning Goals and Objectives*, and *On Excellence in Teaching*. His practical translations of the most current research and theory into classroom strategies are internationally known and widely practiced by both teachers and administrators. He received a bachelor's degree from Iona College in New York, a master's degree from Seattle University, and a doctorate from the University of Washington.

**Dr. Debra Pickering** consults with schools and districts nationally and internationally as a senior scholar for Marzano Research Laboratory. Throughout her educational career, Dr. Pickering has gained practical experience as a classroom teacher, building leader, and district administrator. For many years, she has used this experience to provide training and support to K-12 teachers and administrators as they seek to continually improve student learning. In addition to her work with schools, Dr. Pickering has coauthored (with Dr. Robert Marzano) educational books and manuals, including *Dimensions of Learning*, *Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement*, *Classroom Management That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Every Teacher*, and *Building Academic Vocabulary*. With a combination of theoretical grounding and over three decades of practical experience, Dr. Pickering has worked with educators to translate theory into practice. Her work continues to focus on the study of learning and the development of resources for curriculum, instruction, and assessment to help all educators meet the needs of all students. Dr. Pickering has a master's degree in school administration and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis in cognitive psychology.

## Course Objectives

After completing this course, educators will know:

- Why student engagement is critical to academic achievement
- How to generate high levels of attention and engagement as a result of careful planning
- Research-based strategies to engage all students

## Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, educators will apply the following skills:

- Execute specific strategies to engage students throughout their learning
- Assess students' engagement
- Use four categories of strategies on a daily basis: effective pacing; demonstrating intensity and enthusiasm; building positive teacher-student and student-student relationships; using effective verbal feedback

### Unit 1: Introduction and Overview of Research

In this unit, Marzano Research Laboratory CEO Robert Marzano and Senior Scholar Debra Pickering present a model for attention and engagement that helps teachers get positive answers from their students in response to these critical questions: how do I feel? Am I interested? Is this important? And can I do this? They review some key details about how memory works and the research that supports strategies that will facilitate students' motivation, engagement, and achievement.



## Objectives

After completing this unit, participants will know:

- What questions students need to answer positively to be motivated and engaged
- Research supporting relevant strategies
- How memory works

## Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, participants will apply the following skills:

- Recognize the need to address students' emotions, interests, sense of the importance of content, and sense of self-efficacy

## eBook: Research

Participants read "Chapter 1: Research and Theory" in the eBook of *The Highly Engaged Classroom* and address relevant issues in a reflection question format. They also participate in the discussion forum.

## Unit 2: How Do I Feel?

In this unit, expert presenters Robert Marzano and Debra Pickering detail why teachers need to address students' emotions and strategies to do so. Discussion among workshop participants, interviews with teachers, and classroom footage illustrate the impact on students' attention of effective pacing, physical movement, humor, a teacher's own enthusiasm, and positive relationships between teacher and students and student to student.

## Objectives

After completing this unit, participants will know:

- The role of emotions in student engagement
- Strategies to help students answer positively the question, "how do I feel?"

## Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, participants will apply the following skills:

- Use effective pacing, physical movement, humor, enthusiasm, and positive relationships to affect students' engagement and motivation



### eBook: Emotions

Participants read “Chapter 2: How Do I Feel?” in the eBook of *The Highly Engaged Classroom* and address relevant issues in a reflection question format. They also participate in the discussion forum.

### Unit 3: Am I Interested?

In this unit, Marzano and Pickering explore ways to help students answer “yes” to “Am I interested?” They, their workshop members, and teachers and students in real classrooms illustrate the impact of games and other inconsequential competition, friendly controversy, unusual or intriguing information, and effective questioning techniques that leave no students unengaged.

#### Objectives

After completing this unit, participants will know:

- The role of student interest in student engagement
- Strategies to help students answer positively the question, “am I interested?”

#### Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit, participants will apply the following skills:

- Use games and other inconsequential competition, friendly controversy, unusual or intriguing information, and effective questioning techniques to stimulate their students’ engagement

### eBook: Interest

Participants read “Chapter 3: Am I Interested?” in the eBook of *The Highly Engaged Classroom* and address relevant issues in a reflection question format. They also participate in the discussion forum.

### Unit 4: Is This Important?

In this unit, Marzano and Pickering focus their attention on how teachers can make their content relevant to their students’ lives in the present and to their short- and long-term ambitions. They detail such strategies as personal projects that invite students to articulate and pursue goals and how to make tasks cognitively complex to the degree that students are absorbed by them. Interviews, workshop discussion, and classroom footage translate theory into practice.

#### Objectives

After completing this unit, participants will know:



- The role of importance in student engagement
- Strategies to help students answer positively the question, “is this important?”

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this unit, participants will apply the following skills:

- Use personal projects, goal-oriented activities, and cognitively complex tasks to motivate and engage students

### **eBook: Lifelong Goals**

Participants read “Chapter 4: Is This Important” in the eBook of *The Highly Engaged Classroom* and address relevant issues in a reflection question format. They also participate in the discussion forum.

### **Unit 5: Can I Do This?**

In this unit, Marzano and Pickering, et al, turn to the critical issue of self-efficacy in determining student engagement. They foreground ways to teach and otherwise promote students’ self-efficacy and to nurture a growth vs. a fixed mindset that renders students active participants in all their learning.

### **Objectives**

After completing this unit, participants will know:

- The role of self-efficacy in student engagement
- Strategies to help students answer positively the question, “can I do this?”

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this unit, participants will apply the following skills:

- Promote students’ self-efficacy through strategies such as using effective feedback, directly teaching self-efficacy and exploring with students the impact of self-efficacy—all of which lead to increased motivation and engagement

### **eBook: Self-efficacy**

Participants read “Chapter 5: Can I Do This?” in the eBook of *The Highly Engaged Classroom* and address relevant issues in a reflection question format. They also participate in the discussion forum.



## Methods of Instruction

- Videos (presentations consisting of lecture, interviews, and classroom footage)
- eBook (chapters and exercises from the eBook)
- Reflection questions (open-ended questions at intervals throughout the video presentations where participants are asked to reflect on the course content, their own practice, and their intentions for their practice)
- Quizzes (selected-response quizzes to assess understanding of the video presentations and eBook content)

## Plagiarism Policy

KDS recognizes plagiarism as a serious academic offense. Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as one's own and includes failing to cite sources for others' ideas, copying material from books or the Internet (including lesson plans and rubrics), and handing in work written by someone other than the participant. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade and may have additional consequences. For more information about plagiarism and guidelines for appropriate citation, consult [plagiarism.org](http://plagiarism.org).

## Passing Requirements:

In order to complete the requirements of the course, the participant must complete all course work (e.g., reflections, quizzes, and any midterm and/or final), including watching all videos and participating in all discussion forums. We do not award partial credit.

- Quizzes 40% of total grade
- Reflection Questions 60% of total grade

### KDS Self-Assessment Rubric:

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
<b>Quizzes</b>	100% Correct	80% Correct	60% Correct	0-40% Correct

	Distinguished	Proficient	Basic	Unsatisfactory
<b>Reflection Questions</b>	Participant provides rich detail from the content of the course in his or her responses Participant makes his or her responses to the questions personally meaningful	Participant includes appropriate content from the course in his or her responses Participant makes thoughtful comments in direct response to the questions	Participant includes some content from the course, usually appropriate, in his or her responses Participant answers the questions directly, not always fully	Participant includes no content from the course in his or her responses Participant does not address the questions posed