

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS: VOLUNTEER TOUCHSTONES

We will model good listening skills and follow the student's lead

- We won't force students into discussions about anything, nor will we require them to write about anything that they don't want to write about. Per parental request, we won't be teaching students anything directly.
- We'll be mindful of the fact that this is a virtual space and we don't know each other well
- We'll be mindful of our own identities and how they may be received in conversation
- Students may want thinking space and quiet time; that is OK. Don't try to "fix" their feelings or cheer them up. Validate how they're feeling.

We will strive to ask open-ended questions

- We will use open-ended questions to avoid making assumptions or inadvertently shaping the students' narrative.
- We will not be sharing our own personal opinions.
- The student should be doing most of the talking in these conversations.

We will utilize writing where appropriate for processing feelings and taking action

- Again, we will be following the students' lead.
- Writing prompts will be offered, but students are under no expectation to read or use them.

