

Inviting Students into a FLEx



Developing student ownership early on energizes and launches a FLEx. Using examples of FLEx from across the network, this series will illustrate various ways to invite students into a FLEx.

A strong invitation:

- Welcomes wonder
- Ignites curiosity
- Sparks passion
- Seeds engagement
- Connects learning and learners to God's Story

Technique #4: Guest Speaker - Community Expert

Ex. #1: Lauri Yoo, Washington Christian Academy, History, 4th Grade

The teacher shared with her students that her dear friend, Ms. Jan Adams, had lived through the Civil Rights era and experienced separate lunch counters, separate bathrooms, segregated schools, etc. The teacher invited Ms. Adams to come to the classroom to visit and share stories that she remembered from her childhood experiences. This led to students writing stories about the situations minorities have faced to share with others in their [Sharing the Past, Restoring the Future](#) FLEx.

Ex. #2: Mark DeWeerd, Whitinsville Christian School, World Cultures, 7th Grade

PJ Cook, the assistant town clerk for Grafton, MA, spoke to Mr. DeWeerd's class about his role in the town. The students asked him: "What should municipal workers hear from us?" Mr. Cook replied, "Tell them what you have learned about their jobs and that you appreciate the work they do." This led students into a [FLEx to love their neighbors](#) as they made hand written letters to communicate their appreciation of municipal workers.

Ex. #3: Sophia Lee, Intermountain Christian School, Science, 4th Grade

A father of one of the students works at a mining company, and spoke to the class about the mining industry and the need for more copper production. This stirred up conversations about why people should care about this problem, and how recycling properly was one of the ways to combat this need. Through this interaction with the guest speaker, the teacher led her students into a [Metal Collection Drive](#) FLEx.

Ex. #4: Abby Finley, Kristi Vander Kooi, Megan Winter, Sioux Center Christian School, Social Studies & Bible, 4th Grade

In connection with their unit of study in Social Studies, the teachers did a popcorn hunger simulation to help students recognize how blessed they are to live in a bountiful country like the United States. More specifically, the classes explored how they live in the Midwest, which is known as the breadbasket of the United States. The students later learned that because of Ukraine's rich soil, it is known as the breadbasket of the world. In connection with their unit of study in Bible, their guest speaker (a sister of a Ukrainian missionary family), inspired them to offer seeds to replenish food sources depleted during the war.

Ex. #5: Kayla Kootstra, Ripon Christian High School, AP Environmental Science, 11th-12th Grades

Students were invited into a FLEx to design a water system for a village in Nicaragua through an opening video call with their project manager, Dulce, and engineer, Larry. The students then learned about the programs - Squads Abroad and Global Brigades - as they prepared to do this Real Work.

Ex. #6: Laura Stary, Southcrest Christian School, Science, 7th Grade

Students learned about organ donation from an outside organization LifeGift and asked them specifically what they needed. Their greatest need was getting people to sign up to be donors! Students brainstormed ways they could best get the word out and voted on their top choice.

Ex. #7: Jan Last, Denver Christian School, Music, 4th Grade

The teacher invited a dad from the school community to talk about his time in the Navy and what it means to be a veteran. Students learned why honoring veterans is so important and what this means to them as Americans. This launched into a FLEx to Honor America's Veterans through music.

