

POSTERS IN ACTION!

lesson plans for students based on NAPE's posters

POSTER

Dear Student Letter

OVERVIEW

NAPE's **Dear Student Letter** communicates high standards and sets expectations for an inclusive learning environment that nurtures a growth mindset in students. This exercise helps students understand that you believe in them and that your classroom is safe for mistakes on the learning journey.

OBJECTIVES

- List characteristics of what to expect in the class.
- Construct a strategy for how to meet expectations.

GUIDING QUESTION

- What do you do if you find yourself struggling in this class?

AUDIENCE

Students

TIME

15 minutes

MATERIALS

Recommended: Realizing Potential with Mindset Toolkit, by Brown and Pollock

Order copies of the poster

Dear Student Letter:

napequity.org/product/dear-student-poster



NAPE
National Alliance for
Partnerships in Equity

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napequity.org
nape@napequity.org
(717) 407-5118



FUNDED BY **FLUOR**

Dear Students,
This class will be fun, and it will be challenging.
I have high expectations of you and what you can achieve.
I know that you can meet my expectations if you:

PUT IN THE EFFORT | **CHALLENGE YOURSELF** ✨

❓ **LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU NEED HELP**

LEARN FROM MISTAKES | **ACCEPT FEEDBACK** 🗣️

“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.”
- Albert Einstein

Together we'll take on new challenges, struggle, make mistakes, and learn.

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
11 Newton Place | Suite 302 | Oak, Pa. 15222 | 717.407.5118
www.napequity.org | info@napequity.org

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Lesson Plan

** Ensure you operate from an asset (or strengths-based) mindset and create an equitable learning environment where every student thrives.*

The following is a sample letter similar to the **Dear Student** poster that you could write and provide to your students and then facilitate a discussion.

Dear {Student's Name},

Welcome to {class}! I am so eager to meet you and begin a year of learning about {subject}. Our learning about {subject} will be fun and will provide opportunities to grow your ability.

In this class, I believe in trying new things, learning from mistakes, and enjoying the process and challenge. In fact, that is how the brain grows and gets stronger—when you keep practicing and trying something that is challenging!

Although this class will be fun, it will also be challenging. **I have high expectations of you and what you can achieve in my class, and I know that you can meet my expectations if you put in the effort, take risks and challenge yourself, and let me know when you struggle.**

In this class, making mistakes is good, because it is through those mistakes that you can learn. Albert Einstein once said: "A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

So get ready to enter class, take on new challenges, make mistakes, and learn!

Sincerely,

{Teacher's Name}

Instructions:

1. Prepare to present the provided slides, and print the student worksheet.
2. Distribute, project, or hang a copy of the **Dear Student** poster that is visible to every student. Or play the letter illustrated as a [1-minute video](#).
3. Ask students to list all of the characteristics of what to expect in the class, and reflect on what each means to them on a personal level.
4. Allow them time to discuss in small groups, and then move to a large group discussion.
5. Next, prompt the students to individually reflect on the following:
 - What do you do if you find yourself struggling in this class?
 - Detail three key steps you will take.
 - Draft two reminders to yourself to persist when you face challenges.
 - Identify one goal for the class.
6. Allow them time to discuss in small groups, and then move to a large group discussion.
7. Remind them of your high expectations and belief that they can meet them in your class.

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OBJECTIVES

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Dear Student...



N A P E

NAPEquity.org



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REFLECT

- List all of the characteristics of what to expect in the class.
- Reflect on what each means to you.

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PLAN

- What do you do if you find yourself struggling in this class?
- Detail three key steps you will take.
- Draft two reminders to yourself to persist when you face challenges.
- Identify one goal for the class.

Dear _____,

Welcome to _____! I am so eager to meet you and begin a year of learning about _____. Our learning about _____ will be fun and will provide opportunities to grow your ability.

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DEAR STUDENT LETTER *Student Worksheet*

REFLECT ON THE LETTER

List each of the characteristics of what to expect in the class. Reflect on what each means to you.

Characteristic	What does this mean to you?

REFLECTION

1. What do you do if you find yourself struggling in this class?
2. Detail three key steps you will take.
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