

## Every Connection Matters: How to Build, Maintain, and Restore Relationships Inside the Classroom and Out

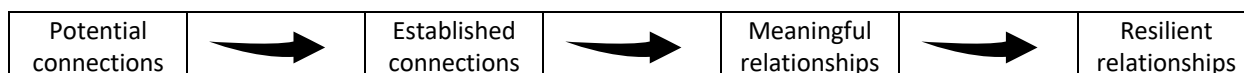
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It was my first year as an administrative intern, and I was sitting in the final faculty meeting listening to my principal and mentor, Mary Bailey, say goodbye to our faculty as she prepared for retirement. In 2016, she was Utah's High School Principal of the Year. She was an educational leader who was beloved by her community and respected around the state. And I still recall her poignant message in this final faculty meeting: "Teaching is all about relationships."

Since then, I have been struck by how often the topic of relationships is discussed in conferences, professional development, articles, and research. So, when I received a copy of Creekmore and Creekmore's book *Every Connection Matters: How to Build, Maintain, and Restore Relationships Inside the Classroom and Out*, my interest was high, and I dove into the book. This book is an essential primer on administrators, teachers, and staff who can build, maintain, and restore relationships with themselves, each other, and students. Administrators, teachers, and staff have something valuable and meaningful for them. The text can be used individually or within a PLC, BLT, or faculty book study.

### Key Ideas:

- Relationships need to be built, maintained, and restored
- Keys for successful relationships
  - Trust
  - Authenticity
  - Respect
  - Communication
- Moving from connections to relationships



### Key Quotes:

- Relationships are the foundation of the important work that we do. Without them, we cannot do our work as educators; it becomes null and void (pg. 2).
- Irina Damascan (2019) says a connection is "something you maintain and work on every day," whereas "being in a relationship is the result of that work and not a given." You can use connections with someone to help build, maintain, or restore relationships. They can be as simple as saying hello every morning to a colleague or giving a student a high five when you pass them in the hallway. Saying hello each day can set the stage for a conversation—another connection. Creating spaces to build connections with others is key (pg.3).
- The magic created through productive relationships is what keeps educators in the field. When that feeling happens, it is important to snap a mental picture of it, to hold onto it, to write it down in a journal so that when you have hard days, you can remember that it isn't always hard (pg. 5).

- When we think about the teachers who had the most influence on our lives, we probably think less about the content they taught us and more about how they valued who we are, poured effort into us, and truly cared. Those are the teachers we want to visit when we get older, the ones who changed the game for us (pg. 36).
- Some believe too much emphasis is placed on relationships. However, many successful educators, educational researchers, and recent data identify relationships as a primary contributing factor in thriving schools. Even though relational work can be challenging, we want educators to remember that relationships can ultimately carry you through difficult moments, help you remember your “why.” And bring a level of joy made possible only through established ties (pg. 121).