

Dear Teachers,

These two surveys are samples of questions you can ask your students and their families at the beginning of the year to get to know them better. To make the survey as useful as possible, it is important to keep a few things in mind.

Consider translating the survey if you have families who speak another language at home. The DOE offers translation services for teachers. You can find more information at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/support/in-your-language> to help you get started with using these services.

In some cases, families may be more comfortable discussing these questions in person. Meeting in person will allow you to build interpersonal connections with students' families early in the year.

These questions can easily be adapted or changed to fit your school, community, and classroom. You may feel some questions are too personal to ask in a survey, in which case they can be edited or removed.

For older students, you might find that it is not necessary to give the survey to parents at all; however, it's important to reach out to parents, regardless of the age of the student. We tend to stop trying to involve parents in the classroom when students are older, but relationships with parents are just as important for older students as they are for the younger ones.

Finally, try to get as many, if not all, of these surveys back. It may take several reminders and phone calls, but the information will be worth the effort if it helps you understand your students better. One option is to give families the survey at curriculum night, or during open house to get as many responses as possible. Students can be given the survey during class time.

### **What do you do with the answers?**

Giving a survey is useful only if you do something with the students' responses. You'll want to consider how you'll store these answers for future use, how you can notice patterns across multiple students or classes, and how students can participate in compiling (anonymous) data in order to better understand their classmates

*Hello families!*

*This survey is to help me get to know your child's life outside of school a little better. Please answer the questions below in as much detail as you feel comfortable with. Feel free to skip questions. If you would like to come in and talk about this survey rather than filling it out, please feel free to contact me.*

Four words to describe your child

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

There are a few of my child's favorite things (for younger children)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What language do you speak at home? What language does your child speak?

What kinds of things upset your child?

What is your child's attitude toward school?

Who lives at home?

What does a typical evening look like for your family?

What hopes do you have for your child this year?

What school experiences has your child had previously?

**Student Survey**

**Name:**

Please answer the following questions either with words or pictures.

What parts of school make you excited? Why?

What parts of school do you not like as much? Why?

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

What do you like to do when you're not in school?

As your teacher, how can I help you to be successful?

Think about the best teacher you ever had. List three words that describe a great teacher.

---

---

---