First Day Of School

I will first introduce myself to the students. I will tell them facts about myself and show them pictures of things important to me. I will give them the chance to also ask me questions. The purpose of this is to give students the chance to get to know me and to feel more comfortable around me. (15 minutes)

Then, we will start with students getting to know each other. Students will be given a paper that has them asking questions of the other students in the class. For example, ”find a student that has a dog at home”. We will then go over it as a class and talk about the things we have learned about our classmates. The purpose of this activity is to get students out of their seats and talking to students they may not otherwise talk to and to learn things about each other as individuals. (20 minutes)

Students will choose where they want to sit at each table. I will tell them to choose wisely as this will be their permanent seat unless they choose to not follow the rules (which will be agreed upon soon). By doing this I am allowing students to have choice in how they learn from the very first day and showing them that I trust them. (5 minutes)

Next, the students will participate in the Marshmallow Challenge as a table group. Each table will be given a marshmallow, noodles, string, and tape. They will be given limited instructions other than the fact that they need to create a freestanding structure that supports the marshmallow on top. The purpose of this activity is to promote teamwork and critical thinking and allow students choice in how they complete the task. The objectives of these tasks will be explicitly told to the students afterward in connection to how the classroom will run. (20 minutes)

Then, students will be given a scavenger hunt assignment of the classroom to find where everything is and how everything works. For example, where IPads are stored, where supplies are etc. They will also find what things will be written on the board. For example, where homework assignments will be posted and where “I can” statements will be displayed. This is to get them more comfortable with the classroom. (20 minutes)

We will then create a set of class expectations, procedures and class jobs together as a group. The students will brain storm ideas for the list individually first, then small group, and then share out as a whole group. We will come to some sort of conclusion and these will be agreed upon and posted. The point of this assignment is to allow students to personally feel responsible for what is expected of them every day in the classroom. For the first few weeks, we will go over these as a class and modify them if we feel things need to be changed. This is to be student-led. (45 minutes)