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Title: Creating Connection in Online Learning

One teaching strategy that defines my work is the intentional design of connection in online and hybrid spaces. I believe students learn best when they feel seen, known, supported, and connected, so I build those conditions into the course from the start. Rather than leaving connection to chance, I create it through consistent structure, warm communication, visible instructor presence, and personalized feedback.

In practice, this means I make a point to use students' names and reference the experiences they share with me. In my responses, I might say, "Casey, I hope it all went well in your 1st grade field experience last week," or "Good luck in the softball game this weekend, Maggie! Go Patriots!" I also record weekly videos so students see and hear from me regularly, which helps foster continuity and connection across the semester. These small but intentional choices help students feel recognized as individuals with meaningful lives with commitments beyond the online class.