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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceMakerspace Checklist for Home and Virtual Learning

**Checklist**



**What to do:** Use this checklist to plan and implement strategies that support virtual and home-based project activities that are engaging and effective.

**Why it matters:** Virtual activities can help you connect with students and families when you can’t meet in person or at times convenient to them. Also, you can use virtual learning during in-person activities and events — for example, to build digital literacy skills, teach software programs, and research community resources.

# Student Engagement Strategies

Invite community members to a virtual meeting with students so they can survey them.

Invite a community expert to join a virtual meeting where students can ask questions.

Watch videos to get students ready and excited for the activity.

Give students reusable “science bags” filled with items they can use for a makerspace.

Host a virtual classroom with specific activities each week.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Family Engagement Strategies

Get families informed, excited, and on board.

* Invite families to a virtual or in-person orientation session to explain the STEAM approach.
* Send home emails or flyers with information about STEAM, including tips on how families can create a makerspace at home with common materials they already have.

Provide families with an orientation.

* Explain the STEAM or other learning approach and how it can benefit students.
* Preview the activities and materials you plan to use.
* Explain what a makerspace is and how to create one at home. Describe the resources you’ll provide and provide a list of household items the family can add.
* Answer family members’ questions.
* Record the virtual orientation for those who can’t attend the live session.

Encourage ongoing participation.

* Offer at-home project ideas and resources.
* Invite families to contribute their knowledge and ideas.
* Offer training for family members willing to help facilitate virtual project activities.
* Invite families to virtual events where students showcase their projects and creations.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Create a Virtual Makerspace

Explore the use of virtual tools.

* Consider online software tools designed for making, animation, and the arts, like JavaScript or graphic design software. Many free tools are available online. If you can’t locate a free version of a tool you want for your virtual makerspace, check with the school and local organizations to see if they can help.
* If you decide to purchase a virtual tool for your makerspace, and it’s within your budget, (a) check to see if there’s a discount for educators, (b) make sure the purchase or license permits multiple users, and (c) make sure it’s compatible with the laptop, tablet, or other device where the tool will be downloaded and used. *Before you make a purchase, you might check with the school or district technology specialist for guidance on these matters, as well as any security requirements.*

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This resource was developed in 2024 by the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC), funded under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) and administered by Synergy Enterprises, Inc. under Cooperative Agreement No. 287E230009 with the Department’s Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the Department or the federal government. This resource is in the public domain and is available at [21stcclcntac.org](http://www.21stcclcntac.org). Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted.