

Knowing Students Deeply

Structures, routines, rituals and systems are at the heart of every learning filled classroom where students are doing the work. These four elements are about the little things that happen every day in the classroom that add up to the great big thing: students doing the work of learning. Learning is not about one great lesson or one great activity teachers design for students to do. It is about the little things teachers ask students to do every day, like listen, read, write, and talk, that add up to the big things like making meaning from text and adding meaning and purpose to life. Structures, routines, rituals and systems are the keys to being able to answer the question, “How do I know?”

Our ultimate priority should be to know our students deeply in order to teach them well – to put books in their hands, to know when to push them and when to pull them, to know just what they need at the perfect teachable moment. We must know more in order to help students know more, do more, be more and perform better.

Adapted: Bennett