



Engageli for Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5)

Best Practices for Online Learning



Teaching upper elementary students online requires balancing structure, independence, and engagement. At this stage, students are developing stronger digital skills, gaining confidence in their learning, and benefiting from interactive activities and teacher connection.

Engageli provides tools designed to make online learning engaging, collaborative, and rewarding for students in grades 3-5.

This guide outlines best practices for using Engageli with upper elementary students.

Establish clear expectations and routines

Students in grades 3-5 thrive when they understand classroom norms and have a consistent structure.

Set clear participation expectations

Set clear participation expectations by establishing classroom rules for speaking, using chat, and working in groups. Reinforce these expectations regularly through reminders and positive reinforcement. Clear expectations help students feel more comfortable and confident when engaging with class materials and each other.

Example: "Please use the chat for class-related messages only. Raise your hand and come up to the podium if you want to speak."

Introduce Engageli's tools gradually but intentionally

Start with a guided introduction to features like chat, tables, polls, and whiteboards. Then, have students complete a scavenger hunt using Engageli's features.

Use structured transitions to keep students engaged

Provide clear instructions in advance before shifting between activities. Giving students a heads-up about what's coming next allows them to mentally prepare and stay focused.

Example: "We have two minutes left on the timer for our table discussions. Get ready to share your group's answer in the class chat."



Provide frequent opportunities for guided exploration and peer learning

Upper elementary students benefit from opportunities to learn collaboratively with peers. Engageli supports guided exploration while allowing teachers to monitor participation and sticking points effectively.



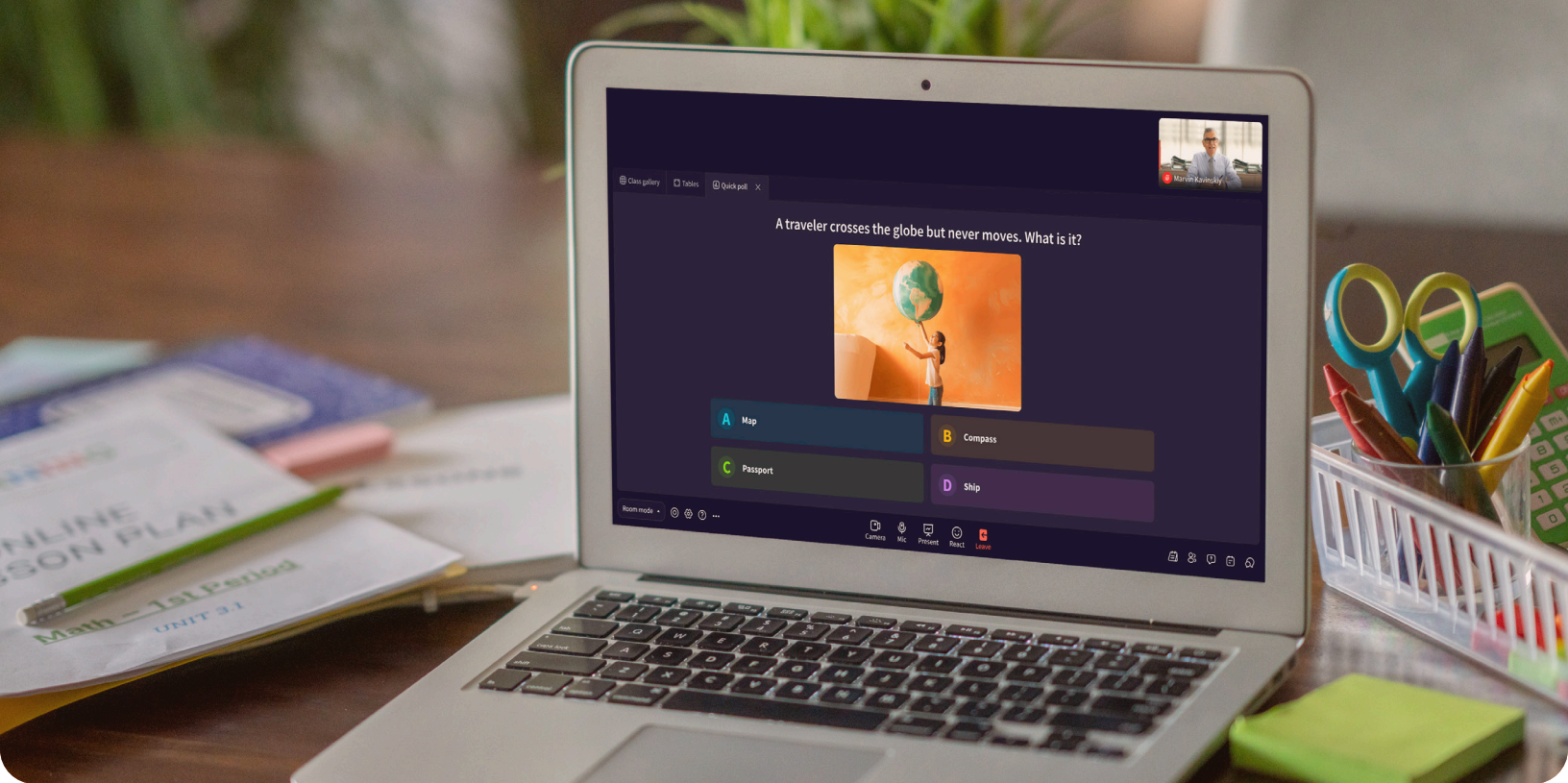
Use Engageli tables for collaborative peer learning

Assign students to tables and encourage them to collaborate on guided learning activities before whole-class discussions. Peer discussions help students refine their thoughts before speaking to the larger group, making participation less intimidating. Mix groups easily by splitting the class using an Engageli poll, either by similar or different answers.

Example: "Discuss with your table: What was the main character's biggest challenge? In 5 minutes, one student from each table will raise their hand and share with the class."

Monitor and guide table discussions

Keep table chat visible to ensure students stay on-task and engaged. Use the Peek and Join features to observe and intervene when students need scaffolded support to reach the next step. If students are off-topic, send a chat message to refocus them or facilitate the discussion for a few moments.



Encourage engagement with rewards and game-based activities

Students at this level respond well to motivation through friendly competition, teamwork, and small rewards. Adding elements of fun and challenge can make a passive lesson into a memorable and active learning experience.

Use table-based team challenges

Assign each Engageli table as a team for trivia, collaborative tasks, or timed challenges. This encourages peer collaboration and strengthens problem-solving skills in a supportive environment.

Example: “Tables, you have five minutes to list as many energy-saving habits as possible. Post your answers on your table whiteboard.”

Incorporate classroom rewards for participation

Offer incentives such as leaderboard points, digital badges, or class privileges. These rewards provide students with a tangible sense of accomplishment that boost motivation and engagement.

Example: “Each time you contribute to a discussion, you earn a point. The top five participants this week get to choose our next class activity.”

Encourage engagement through frequent polls and reactions

Use Engageli’s quick polls and emoji reactions to check understanding and keep students involved. Providing real-time feedback allows teachers to gauge comprehension and adjust instruction accordingly.

Example: “Give a thumbs up if you’re ready to move on, or a thumbs down if you need more review.”

Incorporate videos into lessons

Short, engaging videos can reinforce concepts visually and cater to different learning styles. Add them to your classroom slides to introduce new topics or scaffold learning.

For more game-based learning activities to try with your classroom in Engageli, check out our **guide**.

Build a personal connection with students

Upper elementary students benefit from strong relationships with their teacher and peers, particularly in a virtual setting where face-to-face interactions can be more limited. A connected classroom promotes trust, participation, and a positive learning environment.

Start each class with a personal check-in

Begin with a question that allows students to share something about themselves. For example, when students join, share a slide with the question, “What is one fun thing you did this weekend?” Students can respond in the chat or come up to the podium to share with the class.

Set up a dedicated teacher table for one-on-one support

During independent work time, create an Engageli table just for the teacher where students can drop in to ask questions privately. This provides a safe space for students to seek help or personal connection without feeling pressured to ask in front of the whole class.

Provide individualized feedback through chat

Send private messages to encourage or support students. Even small acknowledgments can have a big impact on student motivation.

Example: “Nice answer, Mia! I like how you explained your reasoning.”



Develop digital communication skills through chat and collaboration

Upper elementary students are beginning to use digital communication more frequently. Engageli helps them practice chat, collaboration, and online discussion in a structured way.

Encourage chat participation for quick responses

Upper elementary students are more comfortable with reading and writing than younger grades, so begin to use the chat with them more frequently. Chat provides a low-pressure way for all students to participate, including those who may be shy speaking aloud.

Example: “What’s one thing you learned about ecosystems today? Type your response in the chat.”

Use collaborative documents for shared learning

Group projects and shared note-taking promote teamwork and help reinforce learning objectives.

Example: “Each table, write one sentence to add to our class story. We’ll read it together at the end.”

Introduce responsible digital communication

Teaching students how to interact respectfully online helps prevent miscommunication and fosters a positive virtual classroom environment.

Example: “Before sending a chat message, ask yourself: Is it kind? Is it relevant?”



Manage classroom behavior and engagement in Engageli

Engagement and classroom management go hand in hand. A structured yet flexible approach helps keep upper elementary students on task while allowing room for creativity and independent thought.

- Monitor engagement with Engageli's live indicators to ensure all students are participating.
- Keep table chat on but monitored to allow peer collaboration while preventing distractions.
- Use Engageli's microphone and camera controls to maintain an orderly class discussion, muting students when they are not talking.
- Use praise and rewards to reinforce positive behavior. Acknowledging appropriate behavior encourages students to stay engaged and follow expectations.

For more ideas on effectively managing your classroom in Engageli, check out our detailed classroom management guide.

Engageli helps upper elementary students stay engaged, develop digital communication skills, and **enjoy interactive learning experiences.**

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