A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

**Highlights from the Chat: Recommended Strategies for Engaging and Supporting Diverse Learners in a Virtual Environment**

* Use Flipgrid to check for understanding and to provide feedback and have a back and forth video conversation. Great for non or early readers! Flipgrid is a great tool for our students to use their expressive language skills. Also great for practicing speaking skills in the foreign language classroom.
* Really helpful also to use Zoom or Loom where kids can see you your face and get visual cues. Loom is also a great online way to record yourself and screen at the same time.
* Modeling a final product/examples helps the students work independently to task completion.
* If teaching through asynchronous videos, you can even embed pause points for students to compete a task and then come back and hit play. Breaks it down and builds in a self-check.
* Seesaw is a great way to provide multiple ways to present directions and for kids to respond.
* Specialists can push in to breakout rooms too when doing small group work.
* Use fill in the blank, 2 column notes, share a document to reach all learners
* Can also use voice memos to record reading or responses.
* With younger children, take some time teaching/supporting the parents. Utilize 1-1 meetings.
* Encourage parents to help students have a strategy to keep track of and find worksheets/books easily.
* You can annotate (draw, type, highlight etc…) your work AND you can also turn off annotate as well. Students will figure out how to draw on your lesson.
* Be explicit about norms!
* Share schedules ahead of time so students and families can preview and prepare for the day/week. This supports executive functioning skills.
* Check for Understanding: Can have students use paper plates: write yes/no; true/false, etc…. Do content based checks for understanding, e.g. 3 branches of government, one on each card, provide definition, ask them to hold up card
* Use puppets/stuffed animals: younger students can help maintain attention; older students can create a class mascot
* Put multiple choice question on screen and ask them to hold up fingers. Always provide think time before asking them to hold up card, hand signal, etc.
* Reach out over the summer and create a rapport with students. Consider sending home surveys as getting to know yous, as well as offering some of your own answers.