

# PHOTO TIPS for educators



## Clean your lens

This simple step often makes a big difference, especially on phones where lenses gather dust and smudges quickly.

## Get close – then closer!

Close-ups convey emotion and detail. Fill the frame with your subject, especially if you're photographing young students. **And remember to get down to kid level.**

## Education in action!

Capture students engaged in activities and enjoying learning. "Doing" photos are dynamic and convey emotion.

## No walls

Avoid photographing subjects directly against a wall as if they are facing a firing squad. Instead, create depth in the shot for a more professional look.

## Use portrait mode

Most phones now have a portrait mode to blur the background, which helps your subject stand out. (Not for wide shots.)

## Lighting matters

Make sure your subject is well lit. Don't shoot toward a window and beware of harsh shadows from overhead lights. If using a phone, tap on your subject to adjust focus and brightness.

## Avoid group shots

Photos with one or two kids are visually more interesting than group shots. Focus on **faces**.

## Watch the background and foreground

Avoid distracting items such as water bottles, book bags, and messy desks.

## Hold steady and be patient

Wait for the right moment to click instead of rushing.

## Avoid zooming

Zooming on most phone cameras reduces image quality. Instead, physically move closer if you want a tighter shot.

## Capture candid moments

Some of the best photos happen when subjects aren't aware of the camera, allowing for genuine expressions and interactions.

## Photo policy

Make sure students in all photos that are submitted for publication have media permission on file. Also, provide first and last names of students (and staff too!).