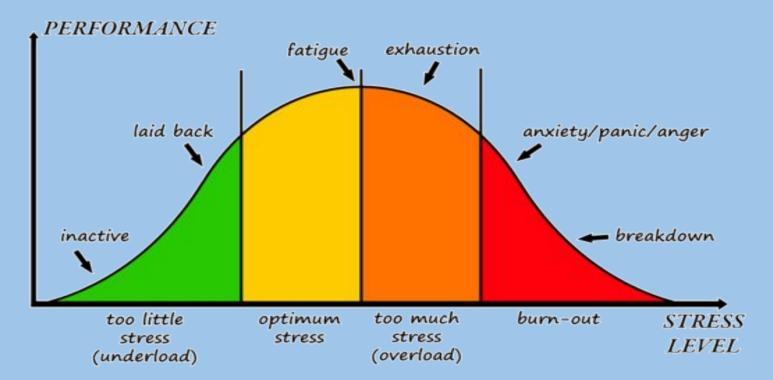
# Helping Students Manage Anxiety and Depression

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#### STRESS CURVE



https://diplolearn.wordpress.com/2012/06/28/stress-is-not-your-enemy/

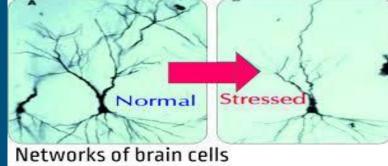
https://theenergyproject.com/blog/stress-not-your-enemy

# When Kids Flip Their Lids



#### Stress Makes You Vulnerable

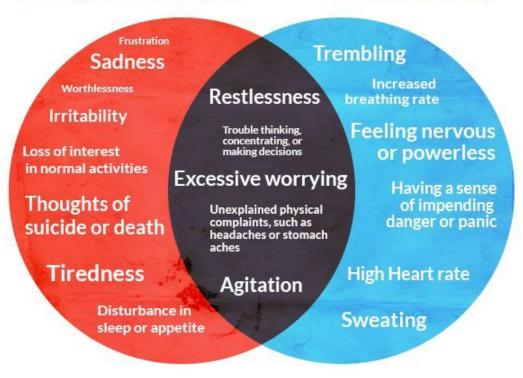
- Stress is considered the underlying cause for 60% of all human illness and disease.
- 3 out of 4 doctor's visits are due to stress-related ailments
- 40% of stressed people overeat or eat
  - unhealthy foods
- 44% of stressed people lose sleep EVERY night



Depression and anxiety share similar neurological pathways and are influenced by genetic factors.

#### **Depression**

#### **Anxiety**



17% of youth (6-17 years) experience a mental health disorder.





Anxiety disorders in children are often been misdiagnosed as ADHD.

Anxiety and depression in kids: Healthy Head to Toe

#### **DEPRESSION** SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS **IN KIDS**

- \* FREQUENT SADNESS
- \* ABANDONING
- HOBBIES
- \* HOPELESSNESS
- \* SCHOOL ABSENCES
- \* POOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
- \* POOR CONCENTRATION
- \* RELATIONSHIP ISSUES
- \* TALK OF OR ATTEMPT TO RUN AWAY





\* LOSS OF ENERGY





\* ANGER

\* CHANGE IN EATING OR SLEEPING **PATTERN** 





# Strategies to Use with Students



#### Start with the heart

In order to de-escalate a situation, you have to ensure that you are calm and in control of your own emotional state. If you become emotional, it will likely make your child escalate as well.



#### **Connection Calms**



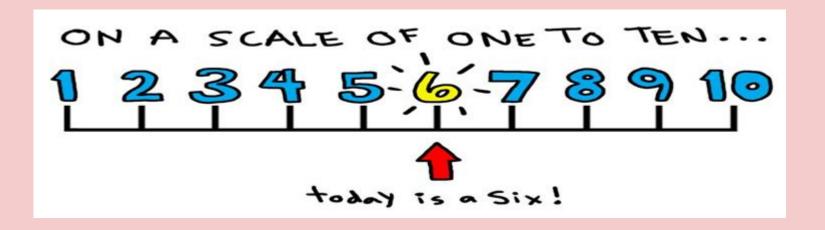
- Stay in control of yourself
  - Share your calm, don't join their chaos
  - Monitor your breathing rate
- Increase wait time // reduce words
- Echo back their words
- Describe & label, but verify

#### Physical Approaches

- BREATHE
- Hydrate
- Drawing/Coloring
- Stretches
- Blanket Weighted
- Sensory Fidgets
- Imagery

#### **Use a Scaling Question**

From 1 to 10, where are you? 1 being not good at all and 10 being great!





# Relaxation Strategies

- Breathing Exercises (Take Five; 3-3-5)
- •https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0YDE8\_jsHk
- Body Scan (progressive tightening and relaxing of muscles)
- Visualization Strategies (describe a place you feel happy--use sensory descriptors)
  - Stretching

# What *NOT* to Say to Someone With Anxiety

Don't say: "Just calm down."

*Instead:* Try asking some open-ended questions.

Don't say: "There isn't anything to worry about."

Instead: Show some empathy.

Don't say: "I've got problems, too."

Instead: Take a back seat for now and just listen.

Don't enable and anxiety-maintaining behavior, like completely avoiding social situations.

*Instead:* Help them face their fears.

# Self-Awareness

**Self-Care Strategies** 

Many of us feel stress and get overwhelmed not because we're taking on too much, but because we're taking on too little of what really strengthens us. ~Marcus Buckingham





### What STRENGTHENS you?

#### Compassion Fatigue/Empathic Distress

- Develops when one cares "too much" for another who has shared firsthand traumatic experiences
- Unique form of burnout
- Being exposed repeatedly to the trauma of others
- Feelings of deep empathy



#### Self-Care Strategies

- Physical Needs balanced meals, adequate sleep, exercise
- Social Needs maintain close relationships
- Mental Health Needs passions, interests, activities that keep your mind sharp
- Emotional Needs process emotions, journal, talk to someone, baths, hobbies,
- Spiritual Needs nurture your spirit to bring meaning to your life

#### **Self Care & Soothe**

- Anxiety takes a physical toll!
- Make a plan to "decompress" after anxiety
  - Creative expression: journal, draw, knit/craft
  - Music: listen, sing, play instrument
  - Bubble bath
  - Exercise, esp. weight bearing
  - Get sunlight
  - Hydrate

#### Resources

www.childmind.org

www.edutopia.org

www.nami.org

https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.h tml

Trauma Informed Toolkit <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3h77nzat">https://tinyurl.com/3h77nzat</a>