Two Ice Breakers

1. Welcome students to the class at the door, once they are all seated use this as an introduction: Good Morning class, I am Mr. Bockhold and I am very excited to have all of you in my Social Studies class. As I am a new teacher to XX Middle School and I’m sure we have other new students in class, I think it would be great to start the day off with an introduction exercise to help all of us get to know each other a little better. And for you all who already know each other you may want to offer out something new your friends may not know. We will start in this corner and each student will stand, state their first and last name and provide two or three interesting facts about yourself, it can be your favorite sports team, your favorite musical group, a hobby or video game you like to play or if you are new here, where you moved from. I will start off…my name is John Bockhold, that is Mr. Bockhold to you all, I just retired from the Air Force and my favorite football team is the Minnesota Vikings and I enjoy water skiing, now it is your turn…

*This ice breaker sets the tone by welcoming the class, and letting them know who I am. I try to put new students at ease by recognizing that fact they may not know their classmates and challenging the other student to provide a fact that their classmates may not know. This approach introduces me to the students and will get the students up in front of the class and allow them an opportunity to get comfortable with each other plus it may help new students get a feel of their classmates.*

2. Welcome students to the class at the door, tell them as they enter to look at the overhead and find their assigned seat. Once all students are seated start off by welcoming the students again:

Good morning and welcome to the most exciting class you will have this year. I am Mr. Bockhold and I am going to help you understand and enjoy learning about geometry this year. I know you wonder how can learning math be fun but I assure you that as we go through the year you will see how we use math in everything you do without even realizing it. But for me to get to know who each of you are we will start off this semester with assigned seating but once you all learn my name; which is? And I learn all you names; which are? And everyone passes the first test we can mix it up a little bit. To start off today, a little about myself; I am a retired Air Force C-130 Navigator, for you who don’t know what a C-130 is; here is a model. I have visited over 25 countries in my career, and will be happy to discuss my travels, how many of you have been outside the US? Where have you been? OK, let’s start the day by everyone introducing themselves and stating a place they would like to visit, it can be in the US or anywhere in the world.

*This ice breaker is mixed, more stringent by assigning seats but tries real hard to put a positive spin on what is most likely a difficult subject for most. I try to add a little more interaction to keep the atmosphere light and then go into my past to give them some background on myself. I tie my personal experiences back to the class by asking who else has traveled around the world and close with each student introducing themselves and stating a place they would like to visit.*