Christian School Lesson
Develop an atmosphere of expected encouragement in the classroom on the first day.

Objective: SWBAT demonstrate encouragement by recognizing differences are part of God’s plan for everyone.

SLO (Student Learning Outcome): Follower of Christ, Community Contributor

Resources: fruits, pictures of people, bar/pie chart, blank poster, markers

Opener: Show a few different fruits.
Q: How are they alike/different?
Q: Is one more important than the other? (no) Why? (All have their purpose and place)

Lesson:
1. Show pictures of faces of different people and ask what they notice? (hair/eye color, glasses, skin color, style of hair, size of ears/eyes/mouth chin, eyes.

2. Q: What can these people do to look like someone else? (curl/straighten/color hair, wear glasses)
Q: What can they not change? (size of eyes, ears, mouth lips, chin, forehead)
We are all made in specific ways. The things we cannot change are areas we don’t comment on about others. God designed each of us unique.

3. Is one person more important than another? All people have value. All have gifts, talents, and abilities. What are your talents and abilities? Have students make a pie chart or a bar graph scale of 1-10) of their strengths, with the given areas: (reading, building, problem solving, science, math, writing, music, sports, Minecraft, and pick one or two of your own.)

4. Get up and move: students move to different areas of the room as teacher calls out: Who likes reading—move here? Who likes music—move there? Students can move from group to group. Discuss what they noticed about the different groups. (some are in more than one group; some groups stronger than others). We all are different, but we have areas of common intersection.

5. Back to seats. How can you show encouragement and respect in our class when someone doesn’t get the answer correct or provides a response that you think is weird?
Discuss in your groups and make a list of ways to be respectful and compassionate: actions to do or not do, words of encouragement or words not to say, what you would want to have said to you or not, etc.

6. Review with group.
7. If time, practice with skits.
8. Pick the top answers to create a class poster with markers, drawing pictures.

Close: We are each created differently, physically, emotionally, and socially. It is our job to appreciate each others’ strengths and be patient with each others’ weaknesses.
Close in prayer.