Learn and Use Students' Names

To learn and use your students' names in a F2F classroom, ask them to write their (preferred) names in large letters on the bottom half of a sheet of notebook paper, fold it in half, and hang it from the front of their desks so you can see their names. Other students can also see the names as they look around the room, which helps create community.

In a smaller class, you will learn names quickly. In a larger class, you can call students by their names, and even if you don't learn all the names, you will still create a climate of inclusion.

If you take attendance, having the names visible will make it an easier task in either size classroom.

Because students often forget their professors' and instructors' names, be sure to model this yourself. Either put your preferred name on the board or on a sheet of paper that hangs down from the lectern. That will reinforce your efforts to "be on a first name basis" with your students.