In a traditional classroom setting, students get to know each other through informal networking during and after class. Just because the class has moved online doesn’t mean students should miss out on this aspect of the learning experience. With physical distancing measures in place, it’s perhaps even more important for instructors to make the effort to create social connections among students.

Fostering Social Connections Among—and With—Your Students
Get the process rolling by breaking the ice. This could be as simple as setting up a discussion thread called “introduce yourself” or using icebreakers (which are applicable in either a synchronous or asynchronous learning environment). While it's ideal to do this at the start of an online course, icebreakers can also be used as a precursor to group work.

**Online Icebreaker Exercises:**

1. **Classmate Quiz:** Have students post introductions on a discussion thread. Give them a few days to read them all in preparation for a matching or multiple-choice quiz about their classmates—you can even entice them with bonus points for the winner.

2. **Two Truths + One False:** Students post three statements about themselves: two true, one false. Their classmates review and guess which statement is false (explaining the reason behind their guess). Students then reveal the false statement and list the names of students who guessed correctly.

3. **Three Ps:** Divide students into small breakout rooms where they share three facts with their classmates: something personal, something professional and something peculiar (such as a hobby or habit—nothing too personal).