

Teacher Appreciation Week: Teacher Recognition Toolkit

Teachers contribute so much to our students and school communities, and Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6, 2016) is a great opportunity to celebrate their impact. Whether it's through a thoughtful gesture, home-baked treat, personalized gift, or a heartfelt note, there are many ways for administrators, colleagues, staff members, students, families, and community members to show their gratitude for teachers. Borrow from the recognition ideas below to make this year's Teacher Appreciation Week a special one for every teacher in your building! Also, remember that teacher appreciation isn't reserved for just one week each year – feel free to incorporate these ideas throughout the year to honor and recognize the outstanding educators in your school.

Idea #1: Decorate the school lobby and hallways with notes of appreciation from students and families.

Shared By: Murry Bergtraum High School; Hawtree Creek Middle School



Idea #2: Provide an appreciation luncheon for teachers catered by a local eatery or by school families.

Shared By: The American Sign Language and English Secondary School



Idea #3: Create a “goody bag” for each teacher, which can include school-branded swag, classroom supplies, or other treats.

Shared By: Upper School @ P.S. 25



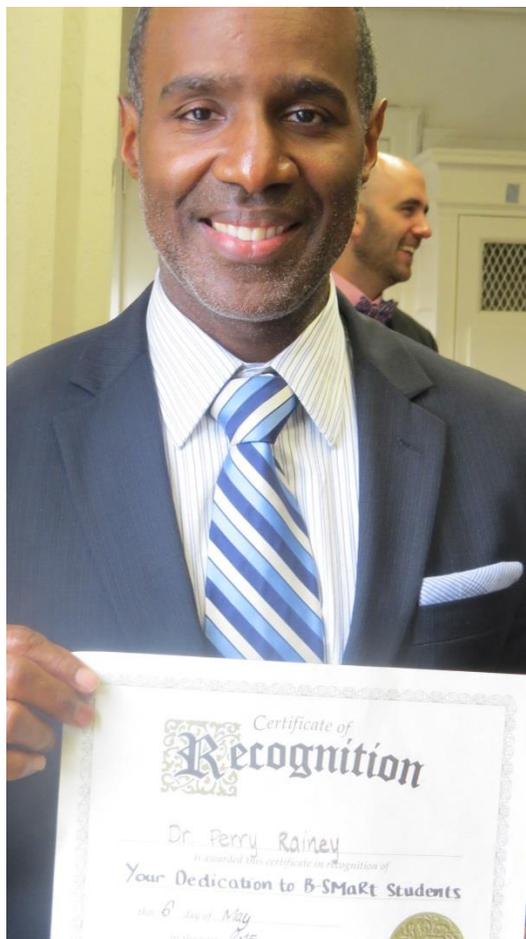
Idea #4: Greet teachers each day of Teacher Appreciation Week with a special treat in the teacher’s lounge or a note of appreciation in each teacher’s mailbox.

Shared By: Elm Tree Elementary School; The Young Women’s Leadership School of Queens



Idea #5: Present each teacher with a personalized certificate or note of appreciation, detailing their own special contributions to your school community.

Shared By: The Brooklyn School for Math and Research



Idea #6: Deliver breakfast, coffee, and/or snacks to each teacher in their classroom.

Shared By: Hawtree Creek Middle School



Additional Tips

- *Engage students* – Students aren't always given an opportunity to share their thanks for their teachers, but such efforts can go a long way.
- *Engage the community* – Ask local businesses to donate coffee and bagels, or ask them for discount cards you can share with your staff.
- *Personalize the recognition* – Use stationery with celebratory language to compliment the extraordinary efforts and achievements of individual teachers, noting each of their special contributions.
- *Extend the celebration* – Teacher appreciation isn't reserved for just one week each year. Create "save the date" invitations for a faculty barbeque or a family picnic in May or June where you can continue the celebration.

For more resources, check out the following links:

- NEA, "Ideas and Activities for Celebrating National Teacher Day" (<http://www.nea.org/grants/55148.htm>)
- PTA, "Teacher Appreciation Week" (<https://www.pta.org/programs>)
- Education World "65 Ways to Recognize Teachers" (http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/recognizing_teachers_all_year_long)
- Pinterest, "Teacher Appreciation" (<https://www.pinterest.com/explore/teacher-appreciation/>)
- Social Media: #ThankATeacher