

Evaluating and Strengthening Your Acknowledgement System

- Evaluate your acknowledgement systems using the Acknowledgement System Criteria Form.
- Identify areas with potential for enhancement.
- After your school-wide acknowledgement system has been implemented, you will want to return to this activity and evaluate it to determine whether your reward system has met all of the criteria below.

Acknowledgement System Criteria Form

The School-wide Acknowledgement System is/has:

- Clearly defined criteria for earning acknowledgement
- Portable for use in multiple settings
- Flexible enough to meet the needs of diverse students
- Contingent access to acknowledgement
- Supportive of and aligned with the data collection system
- Hierarchical: Small increments of success are recognized with small acknowledgement
- Opportunities for naturally occurring reinforcement in multiple settings are promoted
- Simple to use

The School-wide Acknowledgement Materials & Procedures are:

- In ample supply
- Counterfeit protected
- Varied to maintain student interest
- Supportive of behavioral and academic success
- Meaningful back-up acknowledgement & reinforcers
- Age-appropriate

Fern Ridge Middle School

Acknowledgement System

Fern Ridge uses a token economy based on High Five tickets. These tickets are directly related to the school's five school-wide expectations (known as the High Fives).

All adults use these tickets to acknowledge students for their appropriate behavior. During the fall training activities and for a period of time following the first days of school, the tickets are used a lot – and yet appropriately. The tokens (or tickets) clearly communicate that, when students follow the High Fives, their behavior will be positively acknowledged. It gets the students' attention and ties them to the token economy; if they want acknowledgement, they need to earn the tickets – money will not buy it.

Tickets remain the mainstay of the acknowledgement plan. Fern Ridge's staff has developed many ways to incorporate the tickets into both immediate and long-term reinforcement. The tickets are spent like money; students may purchase items at the student store, food at the snack bar, and/or use the tickets to gain access to various scheduled High Five activities.

Distributing the High Five tickets

Fall Training: Each adult carries a supply of High Five tickets to acknowledge students as they participate in training activities. Tickets are awarded frequently so the students have plenty of opportunities to learn early on that following the High Fives will result in something positive. Students are advised to keep the tickets, as they will be able to exchange them for some type of acknowledgement during the training and in the weeks that follow.

On-Going: Tickets are distributed consistently to acknowledge students when they are meeting the expectations. When a substitute is in the classroom, students receive Sub Fives, which are worth five High Fives.

What the tickets earn

High Five Activities: These are opportunities for students to spend their High Five tickets. Students carry them like money and can use them for:

Open gym – once a quarter, homerooms are selected at random over a two-week period, and anyone with enough tickets can go to the gym for 25 minutes.

Raffles – items are purchased, numbered, and set aside in the student store area. Favorite items included sports hats, posters, small radios, and food.

Bingo – bingo games are organized during homeroom, and students can participate if they have enough tickets.

Student store items – store is open during lunchtime and includes school supplies, t-shirts, small games, books, sports items, and other assorted prizes.

Popcorn and snow cones – every Friday during lunch, students may purchase these treats with their tickets.

Licorice – every teacher at the school keeps a tub of red licorice in their classroom, from which students may purchase pieces of licorice at times designed by the individual teacher.

High Five Buttons – Students use their High Five tickets to purchase numbered school buttons. Periodically, several numbers are called over the intercom and if a student has a button with that number on it, he/she reports to the office for an ice-cream sandwich.

Additional Acknowledgement Activities

High Five Surprises - To keep things exciting, the school holds High Five Surprises once a quarter to address areas in which the data indicate room for improvement.

Gold Card – Each child receives a Gold Card at the beginning of each quarter. The card entitles you to privileges such as free popcorn, a two-minute early out to lunch, in hall without a pass, early out to bus, entry into Gold Card night, and others. Students lose cards if they receive a detention, referral, bus citation, or if they are seen abusing any privilege associated with the card.

Guy Lee Elementary School

Acknowledgement System

Guy Lee refers to their acknowledgement plan as the **Self-manager Recognition Program**, which focuses on students who demonstrate pro-social skills. This program works in concert with school-wide and classroom-wide goals.

Level 1 - Specific Verbal Feedback – When you see student(s) following school-wide expectations, acknowledge the student by giving specific positive verbal feedback.

Level 2 – Self-Management Stickers – Acknowledge self-managers by giving stickers along with specific verbal praise, in any setting, at any given time. ***Stickers are not to be taken away as a result of negative behavior.*** Each classroom teacher helps the class set a goal for the number of stickers needed to earn a special activity for celebrating the meeting of the goal. (e.g. free time, movie, treats). When a goal is met, a new goal should be established.

Level 3 – Tiger Tales – A Tiger Tale is an award that can be given to any individual in recognition of their demonstration of self-management skills. The Tiger Tale is an individualized permanent award that the student can post at school or take home.

Level 4 – Self-manager Certificates – Each grading period, students will be recognized for being self-managers by receiving a self-manager certificate with their report card. Classroom teachers will determine criteria for earning certificates in their class.

Level 5 – School-wide Assemblies – All-school assemblies will be held to celebrate successes.

Acknowledgement System Ideas

- Start brainstorming ideas for strengthening your school's formal acknowledgement system below.
- Use the Acknowledgement System Criteria Form for reference.

Remember: Keep it Positive, Planful & Proactive
Keep Economy Moving
Monitor and Modify
Have Fun!