

Teacher Appreciation Ideas

Need some new, fresh ideas for Teacher Appreciation?



Parents and teachers have a special partnership to support and grow the students that parents send to school each day. One of the most touching forms of acknowledgement that teachers can get comes from the parents of the children they work with day in and day out.

SAY THANKS

Write thank-you notes to teachers to really express your gratitude for all they do. Have students express what they have learned from their teacher. Don't forget to thank teachers from previous years.

GET ORGANIZED

Organize your child's class or the entire school to write thank-you notes to their teachers by distributing blank greeting cards with directions. This could also be a great PTA initiative. For individual classrooms or teachers, these can be bound into a book with photos taken throughout the year.

SHINE A LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT



Give the gift of a candle with a note about how teachers shed light on learning, light up education, or enlighten us all.

A LITTLE SOMETHING ...

During Teacher Appreciation Week, parents can put a little something in teachers' mailboxes every day.

TABLE IT

Set up a table during lunch where students can stop and write little thank-you notes to their favorite teachers.

A TREAT-A-DAY

Provide a daily treat for the teachers of your school. For example, Monday could be bagel day, Tuesday's offering could be lunchtime cookies, etc.

UP, UP, AND AWAY

Create or buy a balloon bouquet for a special teacher.



SPECIAL MEMENTO

Create a photo scrapbook for each teacher with a special note saying why that teacher is so special.

A LIVING TRIBUTE

Plant a tree on the school campus to honor all the teachers.



AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIAL

Plan an after-school ice cream social for all the teachers and the staff.

WRITE IT UP

Together with the other parents in your child's school, buy space in the local paper to celebrate teachers' everyday acts. List some of the wonderful things that are going on in the school and then thank the teachers by name.

MAKE IT LOUD AND CLEAR

Write letters to the superintendent and principal showing support for your child's teacher. Be specific.



PERSONALIZE IT

Receiving a personal letter about the impact a given teacher has had on your child is a powerful energizer. This would also make a great PTA letter/card writing campaign.

ADOPT-A-TEACHER DAY

Parents can adopt teachers for the week. Each teacher should be paired with a parent or a group of parents who then do something nice each day for their adopted teacher. Some ideas include: leaving teachers homemade cookies in their mailboxes, washing teachers' cars, writing a kind note, writing a poem in tribute and attaching it to a gift certificate.

RELAX

During Teacher Appreciation, week provide in-house massages during planning time.

RALLY 'ROUND THEM

Hold a pep rally for the teachers. Parents and students can perform songs and skits themed around honoring all the hard work teachers put in throughout the year.



FAVORITE BOOKS

Have each teacher choose a favorite children's book. The PTA can purchase one book for each teacher with a nameplate inside (This is _____ favorite children's book) and possibly a story about a memory of the book. This is a way to preserve one small piece of history of each teacher in the building.

ROSES AND ROLLS

Contact local flower shops and asked for their discarded less-than-perfect roses. A student, just as way to say thank you, presents this flower along with a sweet roll from a local bakery with a card to a teacher.



TASTE TEST

Work with students to pick out food gifts and write clever notes to accompany the food:

- Cookies ... "Tough cookies don't crumble"
- Life Savers candy ... "You are a life saver"
- Junior Mints ... "You mint so much to us this year"

- Pay Day Bar ... "You deserve much more"
- 100,000 Bar ... "You're worth it"
- Roasted nuts ... "We're nuts about our teachers"

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

Have each teacher fill out a list of their favorite things (favorite magazine, gum, candy, lunch, hobbies, etc). The PTA then draws the teacher's names out of a hat and become their secret pal, giving little gifts or notes of encouragement throughout the entire year.

WRITE IT DOWN



Write a paper, a letter, or a thank-you note to a teacher who made or is making a big positive impact on your life. You can hand-deliver it to your teacher or send it through the mail. Don't want to go it alone? Get other kids to write notes as well or involve the student council.

MAKE IT FESTIVE

Stay late or come in early one day and decorate your favorite teacher's door. You may have ideas for your own decorations or maybe you want to take inspiration from your studies.

ADOPT-A-TEACHER DAY

Declare one day of Teacher Appreciation Week Adopt-a-Teacher day. Each staff member has a student volunteer who helps out all day doing things like delivering messages, grading papers, or cleaning the chalk board. If possible, document Adopt-a-Teacher day by taking candid photos of teachers with their student helpers. These make great yearbook photos or gifts to teachers.

DRESS IT UP

On Teacher Appreciation Day, invite students to dress up as a favorite teacher.

SAY IT OUT LOUD

Talk to the principal about allowing students to read the messages they've written thanking their teachers over the intercom.

E-MAIL IT

During computer class, send your teachers thank you notes via e-mail.



DO IT YOURSELF

Give teachers something you make yourself, whether it's a drawing, a painting, or a project like a flower pot you decorated yourself.

CELEBRATE

Get the student council's help in organizing a banquet for the teachers of your school. Work

together to contact local restaurants for food donations that parents or administrators can pick up. Decorate the teachers' lounge and set up the banquet during lunch periods. Students can dress up for the occasion!

DECLARE TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

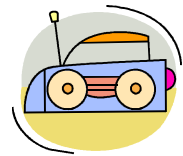
Designate a day when local merchants and restaurateurs offer discounts, twofers, etc. to teachers.

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE GIFT

A local newspaper could provide a column where the teachers of the community are honored each week with a profile and photograph.

SINGING THEIR PRAISES

Local radio stations can dedicate a song to all the teachers in the community and play it just as school is beginning so that the WHOLE school can listen!



GIVE THE GIFT OF TOOLS

Ask the community to donate gift certificates to local discount stores for pencils, poster boards, and other school-related products.

RAISE YOUR HAND AND BE HEARD

Nominate a teacher for a particular award like “Disney’s American Teacher Awards” or “NMSA’s Teams That Make a Difference Award”

GOODIE BAGS OR SMALL TOKEN GIFTS

Include items and notes:

- *Miniature gavel*: "Your leadership has been invaluable";
- *Watch*: "Thanks for the time you spend making it happen for children";
- *Right angle*: "Your angle on this project was awesome,"
- *Cheer detergent boxes* stuffed them with candy, etc. "Give yourself a cheer for a job well done."
- *A pack of gum* "Thanks for sticking with us."
- *A small bag of Hershey's Hugs or Kisses* "Hugs and kisses for all you do."
- *A packet of seeds* "Thanks for planting the seeds of knowledge."
- *Payday candy bar* "You're worth a million dollars."
- *Refrigerator magnets* "Our Teachers are magnetic."
- *Pencils* "You've got the "write" stuff."
- *Bookmarks* "You keep a place in our hearts."

MAKE A BOUQUET OF THANKS

Students can color and cut flowers out of paper, then write a word of thanks on each flower.

Some ideas that they could say:

- Thank you so much!
- You're great!
- You taught me a lot!
- You make school fun!
- I'm glad you're my teacher!

GIVE A REPORT CARD

Your child can make her teacher a thank-you card that looks like a report card. Include areas for "grading" such as:

- Makes Class Fun
- Helps Me Learn a Lot
- Smiles Every Day

Grade teachers with the same phrases they use:

- Super!
- Great Job!
- Hard Worker!



DO FIVE NICE THINGS

The students can pledge to do five things, one each day, during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Help them choose realistic activities, like:

- Help my teacher put away supplies.
- Clean out a classroom closet.
- Draw a special picture.

TEACHER APPRECIATION ALL YEAR LONG

Instead of celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week, try doing a little something each month to let teachers know they are appreciated.

- Assign a different month to a group of volunteers. Give each group examples, or let them come up with their own creative idea.
- Depending on the size of the "little something," either place in mailboxes or designate an area, such as the Teacher's Lounge, for their monthly treat.

Suggestions:

September - an apple, pencil & pad of paper

October - small pumpkin, Halloween candy

November - small spice or cinnamon candles, spice or cinnamon potpourri

December - candy canes, small ornaments

January - microwave popcorn (Superbowl theme), can of chicken noodle soup with a note, "Stay healthy!"

February - box of candy hearts, red pencils

March - green mints, Leprechaun stickers

April - pack of seeds, Easter candy

May - flowers



POEMS OF APPRECIATION

Make an acrostic poem using the letters of the teacher's name.

- Write the teacher's name vertically down the page and let the child make a poem with each sentence beginning with the letters in the teacher's name.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

A personal memoir for the teacher from each student.

- Make a sheet of questions, have children answer and illustrate.
 - "The best/worst thing I learned this year was..."
 - "What does Ms. Reed do when she's not in school?"
 - "How much does a teacher make a day?"
 - "How many years has Ms. Reed been a teacher?"
 - "What was the most fun you had in 1st grade?"
- Title the book "Everything you ever wanted to know about _____ by her/his class".