



## Tool for Teacher Incentives and Rewards

### Ways to Recognize Teachers

- ▶ Ask parents to donate theater or sports tickets that they cannot use. Hold a random drawing for those tickets.
- ▶ At each faculty meeting, hold a random drawing for a “Lunch of the Month.” Winning teachers get to order in from the restaurant-of-choice’s menu.
- ▶ At each faculty meeting, hold a lottery drawing for a “free” two-hour break during which time the principal will cover a teacher’s class.
- ▶ At the end of each grading period, send special notes of appreciation.
- ▶ Call for a “Dress Down Day.” All teachers can dress down on that day.
- ▶ Cover a teacher’s class so that he or she can attend to a family issue or see his or her own child perform at another school’s concert.
- ▶ Each month, hold a party to recognize staff members who will celebrate birthdays that month.
- ▶ Encourage individuals or teams of teachers to present at conferences.
- ▶ Establish a bulletin board to spotlight a different teacher(s) each month.
- ▶ Extend personal compliments as you do classroom walk-throughs.
- ▶ Give gift certificates to teachers who have perfect attendance each quarter.
- ▶ Give professional books to teachers as recognition.
- ▶ Host a “Thank-you Breakfast” during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- ▶ Include a joke or two in each e-newsletter.
- ▶ Meet outside of school over lunch with teachers of each grade level or with teaching teams.
- ▶ Offer a sweet reward — a candy bar or an ice-cream cone coupon — for teachers who complete surveys before the deadline.
- ▶ Plan a “pampering day” with massages or manicures. Arrange to have each teacher’s class covered for 30 minutes so that they can visit the pampering room.



**Ways to Recognize Teachers, continued**

- ▶ Plan to take over a class for a special read-aloud time that will give teachers an extra break.
- ▶ Provide a duty-free week during scheduled state test times. Arrange to have PTA parents or others cover those duties.
- ▶ Provide copying services for teachers.
- ▶ Provide dinner between school and an evening parent meeting.
- ▶ Provide doughnuts in the morning — for no special reason other than to say, “thank you.”
- ▶ Provide each teacher with a coffee mug that has his or her name on it.
- ▶ Purchase a special book for the school library to recognize a teacher or honor a special occasion.
- ▶ Purchase fresh flowers for teachers' desks during parent-teacher conference week.
- ▶ Put “cookie coupons” in teachers' mailboxes. Arrange with the cafeteria for teachers to redeem those coupons for a special treat!
- ▶ Recognize a teacher who has gone above and beyond by putting in his/her mailbox a voucher for a free cup of coffee at a local coffee shop.
- ▶ Relieve a teacher's duty as a reward for a special contribution.
- ▶ Send a complimentary e-mail and put a copy in the teacher's file.
- ▶ Send a personal, handwritten note of thanks or appreciation to teachers “caught” caring or who pulled off terrific classroom projects.
- ▶ Start an “encouraging words” chain in which teachers drop “encouraging words cards” in their colleagues' mailboxes.
- ▶ Take a teacher out to lunch to recognize a special day — for example, a birthday or a special honor or award.
- ▶ The faculty room is not getting the attention it needs? Arrange for “gremlins” to clean it up!