

Disney  HAND

Teacher Appreciation

*Raise Your Hand to
Celebrate Teachers!*



NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



**Give a hand
for teachers!**



Teachers are local heroes!



Every day, millions of teachers dedicate their talents to improving the lives of students at our nation's schools. Recognizing the tremendous contribution of teachers, DisneyHand has honored the teaching profession through Disney's American Teacher Awards. Each year, a select number of teachers is chosen by a National Education Committee to represent their peers in the teaching profession.

DisneyHand also wanted to find a way to honor *all* teachers during the upcoming National Teacher Appreciation Week. Drawing on the resources of past American Teacher Awards Honorees, this booklet is a compilation of some of the best ideas for recognizing the wonderful teachers in your community.

National Teacher Appreciation Week is a time to shine the spotlight on the people who are so much a part of children's lives. We hope that these ideas and tips will help you to honor and recognize teachers not only this year, but for many years to come!



Whether you're a student, a parent or an administrator, chances are there's a teacher or many teachers in your life that you'd like to thank. Although we have classified ideas by group to help you execute them, many ideas lend themselves to you applying your own creativity and coming up with an even better idea. These are just a few possibilities to get you started.

Ideas for Administrators



One of the important qualities shared by great teachers and great administrators alike is the ability to say thank-you and acknowledge a job well done. As meaningful as it is for a teacher to receive recognition from parents and students, it is just as meaningful for them to receive recognition from their administration.

Teacher Appreciation Over Easy!

Prepare breakfast for all the teachers one morning during the week.

Do a Write Up!

Write poems, letters or notes of appreciation and leave them in teachers' mailboxes. Read them at morning assembly or over the intercom.

Good Morning!

Take orders the previous night so that coffee and pastries from the local coffeehouse are waiting for the teachers when they arrive at work.

Personalize It!

Print teachers' names on coffee mugs, t-shirts or other items to commemorate the year's efforts.

Take Note!

Write teachers notes like "Well done!" for going above and beyond or accepting a challenge. Let teachers know, "I see how you care about our students, and your efforts are appreciated."

After School Activities!

Plan an end-of-the-day stress relief game such as volleyball or softball. Provide free snacks and refreshments.

Make It a Surprise!

One morning in the teachers' lounge, surprise the faculty with muffins, fruit and coffee.

Adopt-A-Teacher!

Organize an event in which parents and administrators cover teachers' classrooms for an hour during lunch so that they can enjoy a meal outside of their classrooms.

Homemade, Homeroom Gifts!

Have each teacher's homeroom class decorate a shoe box or flowerpot that the teacher can then use to store special notes, cards, gifts and other treasures.

Operation (Insert Teacher's Name)!

This project is geared for teachers who are serving in the military and have been called up for service. The parents, other teachers and students in that school can collect useful items to send over to them in care packages (ie: soap, deodorant, sunscreen, snack items, cards, letters, banners, etc) and send them to their teacher who is over fighting for our country. This allows the schools to do something productive in a worrisome time and best of all sends the message to that teacher that they are supported, missed, and remembered.

Walk of Fame!

Create your own Walk of Fame for your teachers. Get a piece red carpet donated or use red butcher paper to put down the entry hall. Make gold stars with each teacher's name on them, and have the school meet the teachers as they arrive one morning.

Random Acts of Kindness!

Perform random acts of kindness for teachers—like having their classroom windows washed or using professional development funds for subs to rotate through classrooms to supervise the class for an hour so teachers can take a break or meet with colleagues.

Dress It Up!

Decorate the staff lounge and the hallways of the school with Teacher Appreciation Week themed pictures and banners.

“The most touching celebration of one's teaching is a handwritten note expressing what that teacher meant to an individual. Over the years, I've received many wonderful tributes, which have in a way reshaped my teaching. Some of my most treasured classroom mementos are from parents who have written explaining how I turned around their child, how my unwavering faith in and efforts for their child have enriched the family in helping the child succeed.”

*Catherine Harper
Elementary Teacher*



Ideas for Parents



Parents and teachers have a special partnership to help support 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 that really express your gratitude for all they do.

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 on what to do. This could also be a great PTA/PTO 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 or 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 of each student with a special note on 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.

Pitch In!

In August, hold a pre-Labor Day party where parents with hammers and buckets pitch in to help teachers prepare their rooms or parents can decorate the Teachers' Lounge for the new school year.

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/PTO letter/card writing campaign.

Adopt-A-Teacher Day!

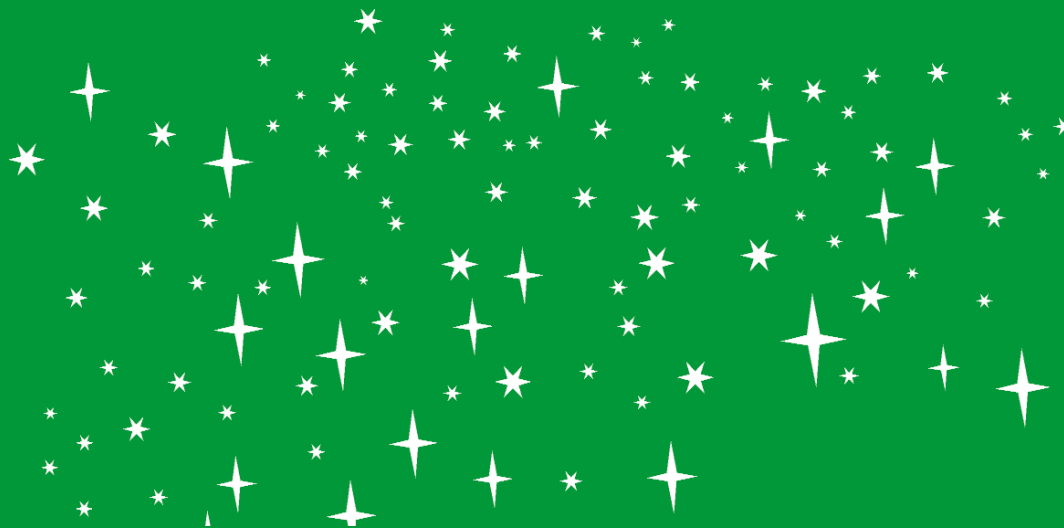
Parents can adopt teachers for the week. Each teacher should be paired with a parent or a group of parents who then do something nice each day for their adopted teacher. Some ideas include: leaving teachers homemade cookies in their mailboxes, washing teachers' cars, writing a kind note, writing a poem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





Ideas for Parents & Kids Together



Here are some ideas for parents and kids to work together to make teachers realize that their work not only affects the lives of the students in school, but can also have an impact on life at home and in the community. Parents teaming up with kids not only sends a positive message, it can help kids realize some ambitious ideas that otherwise would be difficult for them to carry out.

Join In!

Parent volunteers and students work together to secretly paint a bright and colorful stool or chair for each teacher in the building.

Post It!

Create posters with messages of appreciation for teachers and have local businesses post them in their windows during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Create a Teacher Appreciation Quilt!

Give each student in the class a square of fabric to decorate, then stitch them all together. Add a special border and teachers would have a gift that would last for years to come!

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 lifesaver"

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"

Lunch Bell!

Help students organize a banquet style lunch for the teachers by asking local restaurants for food donations. Parents can pick up the prepared food to be served during lunch periods. The students can decorate the teachers' lounge beforehand, dress up for the event and help clean up afterwards.

An Apple a Day!

Parents and kids can stand at the doors of the school, handing teachers a fresh, large and polished apple and wishing them a wonderful week.

Have a Blast from the Past!

Teachers love to see and hear from former students. It's special for them to learn what you've gone on to do and even more special to know that you still think about them!

I have been fortunate enough to experience many celebrations during the past 30 years, from luncheons to flowers. But the most touching celebration is the one that comes from the children...from their hearts. A card, a note, a picture that says "you are loved and appreciated" is the best. I have saved many "little celebrations" over the years from children and each one carries a memory and a piece of soul that will last forever. I look at them often.

*Percy Hill
K-8 Physical Education & Health*



“ One of the nicest things the PTA/PTO ever did for us at our school was to have each teacher fill out a list of his or her favorites (favorite magazine, gum, candy, lunch, hobbies, etc.) The PTA/PTO then drew teacher names out of a hat and became our secret pal, giving us little gifts or notes of encouragement throughout the entire year. It went over extremely well! They also give us a lunch the day before school begins as a way of saying they appreciate all we do. ”

*Pann Baltz
Elementary Teacher*

“ At the beginning of Teacher Appreciation Week, I put out an all-call announcement from the administration to all students. The intent of the announcement is to explain to students the week of celebration and to ask each student to take a moment during the course of the week and drop off a letter of appreciation in the main office for the teacher of their choice. On Friday morning letters are gathered and sorted into staff mailboxes. The response from staff goes far beyond food, buttons, and apples. ”

*Joe Erardi, Superintendent
Former HS Physical Education
Teacher & Coach*

“ What keeps me going is the impact of how I touch the future; and that happens when children return and let me know in some way that something that we did in the classroom has stayed with them. When I feel like packing it all up and leaving, the universe always sends someone back to say thank you and that keeps me in the classroom at least another day. Beyond the flowers, the discounts, the cards, the gifts, and the recognition of many, that show of appreciation from one I have touched means the most. ”

*Geanora Bonner
Elementary Teacher*

Ideas for Students



There is nothing more special to teachers than receiving thanks or acknowledgement from their students. It is one of the ways that students let teachers know that all the hard work is paying off. Teacher Appreciation Week gives kids a special chance to honor their teachers.

Write It Down!

Write a paper, a letter or a thank-you note to a teacher that made or is making a big and 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!

Ideas for the Community



Sometimes it's easy to forget that our schools are a part of our larger community. Through their work, teachers provide an immeasurable service to the communities in which they work. Following are some ideas for how a community could say thanks to its teachers. Some of these ideas would also be great for a parent or administrator to spearhead.

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 for 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.

Advertise It!

Place "Thank You Ads" for Teacher Appreciation Week on placemats, food labels and in storefronts.

Raise Your Hand and Be Heard!

Nominate a teacher for a particular award like Disney's American Teacher Awards, www.DisneyHand.com, or NMSA's TEAMS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD, www.nmsa.org.

Helping Hands



We would like to thank each and every one of the special teachers who took time out of their busy schedules to send us their thoughts about National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Jayné Anthony, Walnut Hill Elementary; Dallas, TX
Laura Auch, Phoenix Alternative High School; Cupertino, CA
Pann Baltz, Camino Grove School; Arcadia, CA
Steve Barnicle, Simsbury High School; Simsbury, CT
Debi Barrett-Hayes, Florida State University School, Tallahassee, FL
Mikki Bieber, Newburgh Free Academy, Monsey, NY
Carolann Biel, Chesterton High School; Chesterton, IN
Jessica Blitzer, Windsor High School; Windsor, CT
Frank Blustein, Germantown High School, Germantown, TN
Geanora Bonner, Birdielee V. Bright Elementary, Los Angeles, CA
David Brock, Roland Park Country School, Baltimore, MD
Mary Butts, Monterey Elementary, Grove City, OH
Patricia Carlson, Swanson Middle School; Arlington, VA
Becky Cassell, China Springs Elementary; Waco, TX
Ron Clark, Atlanta, GA
Jan Coleman-Knight; Thornton Junior High School; Fremont, CA
Kellie Compton, Decatur Early Childhood Center; Indianapolis, IN
Peggy Covington, Arkansas Department of Education; Little Rock, AR
Paul Crips, Carey Junior High School, Cheyenne, WY
Len DeAngelis, Middletown High School; Newport, RI
Dean Eastman, Beverly High School; Andover, MA
Joe Erardi, Superintendent, Bolton, CT
Nora Flanagan, Lane Technical High School; Chicago, IL
Cindy Floyd, Cranford Burns Middle School; Mobile, AL
John Fredricksen, Mamaroneck High School; Mamaroneck, NY
Ron Galliher, Blue Hills Regional Technical School; Canton, MA
Robert Gauger, Oak Park & River Forest High School; Oak Park, IL
Terri Graham, Bayonne High School; Bayonne, NJ
Ann Greiner, Henry Grady High School; Norcross, GA
Judy Haller, ISUS Trade & Tech Prep; Dayton, OH
Catherine Harper, Tangier Smith Elementary; Mattituck, NY
Barbara Heimbürger, Palm Valley School; Rancho Mirage, CA
Percy Hill, Andover Elementary/Middle School; E. Andover, NH
Jody Hodges, Aledo Middle School; Aledo, TX
Larry Hurt, Ben Davis High School; Indianapolis, IN
Phil Isernio, Kentlake High School; Kent, WA
Douglas Jackson, Hillside Elementary; El Paso, TX
Tammy King, Mt. Ridge Junior High; Highland, UT
Steve Kirsch, South Middle School; Rapid City, SD
Cathy Knoop, Laurelville Elementary; Laurelville, OH
Steve Korpa, Carrick High School; Pittsburgh, PA
Robin Kramer, Mountain View High School; Morgan, CA
Loretta Kusak, Lakeridge Elementary School; Mercer Island, WA
Danette Lansing, Eagle Hills Elementary; Meridian, ID
Bonnie Leech, Edward S. Marcus High School; Flower Mound, TX
Marylin Leinenbach, Indiana State University; Terre Haute, IN

Sharon Locey, Alder Creek Middle School; Milwaukie, OR
Anita Lyle, Nashua High School; Chelmsford, MA
Elba Iris Marrero, Hunter College Elementary; New York, NY
Carolyn McCloskey, Hanau American Middle School; McMinnville, OR
Sara McKinley, Jones Middle School; Upper Arlington, OH
Wendy Meadows, Pace School; Pittsburgh, PA
Meryl Meister, Martin Meylin Middle School; Strasburg, PA
Dan Miekstyn, Forsythe Middle School; Ann Arbor, MI
Vonneke Miller, Peterson Middle School; Santa Clara, CA
Marj Montgomery, Frank Ashley Day Middle School; Newton Corner, MA
Gary Moore, Booker T. Washington Magnet High School; Montgomery, AL
Carole Moyer, Early Childhood Coordinator, Columbus Public Schools; Columbus, OH
Jane Nelson, University High School; Orlando, FL
Vicki Newberry, Kualapuu Elementary School; Kaunakakai, Molokai, HI
Huong Tran Nguyen, Long Beach USD & California State University, Long Beach; Westminster, CA
Margot Olsen, Roseville Area Middle School; Roseville, MN
Nancy Pudas, Eden Prairie High School; Eden Prairie, MN
Cathy Rex, Roxborough High School; Philadelphia, PA
Cathy Roberts, Hunt-Mapp Middle School; Norfolk, VA
Roxann Rose-Duckworth, Western Washington University; Bellingham, WA
Jim Schulz, Helena High School; Helena, MT
John Schwartz, Blair Pointe Elementary School; Peru, IN
Robin Share, Birmingham High School; Sherman Oaks, CA
Mary Shenk, Broadleigh Elementary School; Columbus, OH
Art Sherwyn, Stockdale High School; Bakersfield, CA
Judy Sink, Hardin Park Elementary; Boone, NC
Kay Slack, John Foster Dulles High School; Sugar Land, TX
Donna Jean Spaeth, Wichita North High School; Wichita, KS
Linda Squier, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Columbia, MD
Kim Stewart, Mt. Bethel Christian Academy; Marietta, GA
Jerry Stover, Clay County High School; Clay, WV
Kris Swisher, Bellefontaine City Schools; Bellefontaine, OH
Deb Tackmann, North High School; Eau Claire, WI
Bob Taylor, Lander University, School of Education; Greenwood, SC
Marcy Vancil, Flossie Wiley Elementary School; Urbana, IL
Bernie Walter, Arundel High School; Arundel, MD
Russ Weaver, Parkway Middle School; Kissimmee, FL
Judy Whitener, Farmington, MO
Kathy Wiebke, Desert Trails Elementary School; Phoenix, AZ
David Williams, Dumbarton Middle School; Baltimore, MD
Carla Woyak, Phoenix Children's Hospital's "One Darn Cool School," Currently a Consultant; Phoenix, AZ
Diane Zuick, George L. Myers Elementary School; Portage, IN

Show Your Character!

DisneyHand, the worldwide outreach division for The Walt Disney Company, is dedicated to making the dreams of families and children a reality through public service initiatives, community outreach and volunteerism in the areas of learning, compassion, the arts and the environment.

Supporting teachers and learning doesn't stop with recognition. Honorees and their principals participate in Disney-sponsored professional development, sharing ideas and practices.

DisneyHand also reaches out to children and families facing incredible challenges — the number one wish of children with life threatening illnesses involves a Disney character or a visit to our parks. We are proud to fulfill these wishes.

Another of our major focus areas is the environment. Concern for the environment has been a core Disney value from the earliest days of our Company and continues to be an integral part of the way we do business around the world.

Many of the projects undertaken by our Disney VoluntEARS focus on helping the environment and our local communities. In 2002, Disney VoluntEARS participated in more than 1,044 projects and programs and contributed more than 370,000 community service hours, filling 63,439 opportunities worldwide.





Worldwide Outreach for The Walt Disney Company

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www.DisneyHand.com

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