

Building the World's Greatest Student Leaders

Leaving With No Regrets

What if today was your last day on your campus in your role as an educator – forever? What would you like to be able to say about yourself, or have others say about you, as an educator, friend, or colleague? Consider each of the following dimensions of yourself. Write down the words you hope others would use to describe you – or the words that you hope you could use to describe yourself after your last day.

Cognitive (*the way you think*)

Emotional (*the way you feel*)

Somatic (*the way you are in your body*)

Interpersonal (*the way you are with others*)

Spiritual (*the way you work with the unknown*)

Moral (*the way you work with ethics*)

Your School Brand

Your brand is the interplay of four distinct dimensions of your school. What are the ways in which your personal beliefs and values have influenced the ways others have seen and experienced your school? How have your actions impacted your school and the way others experience it? How does your school family's culture of values influence your school? What laws, policies, procedures, and systems influence your school's brand?

Inside Me

What beliefs and values, inside me, do I hold about my school, my students, my colleagues, etc.?

Outside Me

What actions do I take that influence my school?

Inside Us

What beliefs and values, inside us, do we hold about our school, our students, our colleagues, etc.?

Outside Us

What laws, policies, procedures, and systems influence our work?

Identifying Those You Serve

Not every person you serve has the same needs. What are the unique needs of some of the students in your care? What are some of the ways in which some students need more support, or different types of support, than others? What are the ways in which you are serving each of these individual groups – in the ways that are uniquely needed by them? For each of the following, (1) write the definition of each group, (2) jot down some ideas of some individuals on your campus that may fit this definition, and (3) what are some ways that they uniquely need to be served?

Kileys and Alyssas

Austins

Camo Kids

The Royal Family

Designing a Rose Petal Moment

Just as your brand is an expression of four dimensions, you can design the way in which others (whether a single student, a group of students, an educator, a parent, or groups made up of multiples of these) have an experience. What would it be like to design a specific experience where a single person or group of individuals felt like they were expected, planned for, and valued? This activity will involve you designing such a moment. Consider one person that would benefit from such a Rose Petal Moment: What would you like them to experience in each of the following dimensions?

Inside Them

What beliefs, values, and/or emotions, inside them, would you like this experience to trigger?

Outside Them

What physical evidence would you like them to observe or experience? What will happen during this experience physically in the universe in their perception?

Inside Us

What beliefs, values, and/or emotions, inside all of us, would you like this experience to trigger? Consider the shared emotions of the moment.

Outside Us

What physical evidence would you like all of us to observe or experience? What will happen during this experience physically in the universe in all of our perceptions together?

Inspirational Teacher

“Nobody Gets Anywhere Without a Teacher”

Traditional staff acknowledgement sometimes is perceived as a negative instead of a positive celebration of educators. Most staff recognition comes from the top down or it is voted upon by students. Many times educators feel this method is a popularity contest and is not valid recognition.

The **Inspirational Teacher** system of acknowledgement is different because it comes directly from the student. The philosophy is built upon the concept of “Behind Every Student is a Teacher.” Every working adult on campus is a teacher; classroom teacher, secretary, administrators, custodian, security, bus drivers, etc. Each adult on campus may be a significant other to at least one student and provide education in some manner.

Every time a student is acknowledged, there is an opportunity to recognize the teacher who impacted their life. **Possible areas of acknowledgment for students and Inspirational Teachers. A simple rule to follow is to ask yourself, “is this an appropriate time to celebrate teachers?” Your actions are communicating, “Behind every student is a teacher and no one gets anywhere without a teacher! Simple but powerful.**

- Football team presents their “Away Jersey” and the teacher wears it to school and is honored at the game. Either before the game or at Halftime.
- Sport team introductions of player and their Inspirational Teacher prior to the game starting. Use the halftime to celebrate other groups.
- Drama Production. Introduce Inspirational Teacher at the beginning of the show. At the end of the performance have the cast & crew introduce the teacher who impacted their lives. Just names no story.
- Band/ Choir/ Performing Arts. Honor teachers at the beginning and end of the performance. Students could invite Middle School and Elementary teachers to be honored.
- Rallies. Every student honored walks out with their Inspirational Teacher: Top 10 of each class, Top 10 Most Improved, Inspirational students, Homecoming King & Queen. groups or teams could use this system. Large groups/teams don’t always work in the rally. Let them be honored at their game.
- National Athletic Letter of Intent signing. Have their Inspirational Teacher standing behind them while they sign their letter of intent.

Film students saying, "My Inspirational Teacher is. . . They impacted my life by" Film 15 second segments of 50 to 60 students and show at a staff meeting. Have the principal tell the story of their Inspirational Teacher and then remind their staff that they are inspiring students daily. Here is what some of our students think about YOU. (Show the video clips)

Think of your school-wide celebrations where every time a student is honored, there is an Inspirational Teacher honored as well.

The Key to Success. The difference in this system of acknowledgement is it comes from the students. This is a one on one moment where the student shakes the teachers hand and expresses the following 4 statements. School personnel has to "Coach" the students prior to the face to face acknowledgement.

4 things that students must say.

1. "You are my INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER." (Do not use FAVORITE Teacher)
2. "TELL THEIR STORY OF HOW THEIR INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER IMPACTED THEIR LIFE.
3. "THANK YOU FOR WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO"
4. "I WOULD BE HONORED IF . . .
 "I COULD ESCORT YOU WHEN I RECEIVE MY RECOGNITION"
 "YOU WOULD WEAR MY JERSEY TO SCHOOL AND YOU WILL BE HONORED AT THE GAME"
 "YOU COULD BE THERE WHEN I"

Think of the all of the recognition you are currently doing on your campus and plug in the Inspirational Teacher system. Remember. . . Behind Every Student is a Teacher!

1. When would you launch Inspirations Teacher Acknowledgement?
2. What areas could you add the Inspirational Teacher Acknowledgment into what you are currently doing?
3. How could you create additional areas for Acknowledgement?
4. Create a 2nd semester plan
5. Create a Welcome Back plan
6. Create a school year plan for implementation