EVERYONE MATTERS!

EPIC Student and Staffulty Recognition Ideas

Chris Reeder
Los Altos High School
Activities Director/ASB/Renaissance/Freshman Leadership
STUDENT RECOGNITION

- C.O.W.
- Scholar Athletes
- Performing Arts Scholar
- Student of the Month
- Special Needs/Best Buddies
- New Student Welcome
- Santa’s Workshop
- Sign on the Line
- Teacher’s Choice Awards
C.O.W (CONQUEROR OF THE WEEK)

- Nominated by ANYONE for really any reason
- Can tie it to your school’s Core Values, Mission, Vision, etc.
- Get name, find classroom, email teacher ahead of time
- Make poster with name and WHY they are receiving the COW
- Take picture and post on social media!
- If you can include nominator…even better!
SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

- Do one for each Home League Game
- Contact Coach or Athletic Director to see who has been performing well on the field/court
- Check with counselors to make sure grades are acceptable
- Poster with name and sport
- Take picture and post on social media!
PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLAR

• Do one for every Performance
• Contact Director to see who their outstanding performers have been
• Check with counselors to make sure grades are acceptable
• Poster with name and Performing Art group
• Take picture and post on social media!
STUDENT OF THE MONTH

• One of the best and easiest events we do!
• Send email out to entire Staffulty (not just teachers!) to gather nominations
• Choose a theme (Honesty, Kindness, etc)
• Pro-tip…use Google Forms
  • Makes spreadsheet for you!
• Make certificates for students
• Take pics and post in your main lobby
• Call home THAT DAY and notify parents!
• Feed kids (pizza is cheap and everyone loves it!)
SPECIAL NEEDS/BEST BUDDIES

- Members of our Student Leadership head up the Best Buddies Program
- Partner with our special needs population
- Homecoming Float
- Monthly celebrations (Back to School, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.)
NEW STUDENT WELCOME

• Most important recognition we do!
• Create survey and have attendance staff hand out when the new student checks in
• Within a week, we make contact in a class
• Announce new student and give entire class treats as a celebration (Costco snack box)!
• Take new student outside, meet student leader buddy and invite to lunch, event, etc.
• Follow up with monthly transfer lunch!
SANTA’S WORKSHOP

- Solicit donations from your Staffulty
- Partner with local law enforcement (CHP)
- Alumni in businesses who can donate (Carvana)
- Decorate a room like Santa’s Workshop
  - Cookies, Hot Cocoa, Music, Tree, etc.
- Target Homeless, Foster, Free/Reduced. Mix in some “other” students.
- Choose a gift to GIVE to a friend/family member
- We wrap gift and deliver on last day of school.
ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

• Have Athletic Director keep track of student-athletes who are signing to play in college
• Create a “signing ceremony” for them. Invite coaches to speak
• Balloons, college swag, treats.
• Invite parents if possible!
SIGN ON THE LINE

• Have Guidance staff help you gather college commitments
• Make individual “Letters of Intent” for each student with their name and school logo.
• HUGE ceremony at lunch in front of everyone!
• Music, celebrations, announce names, etc.
• Could invite parents, but hard in middle of day
• Create photo backdrop for pictures
• Do separate event for Military Commitments!
TEACHER’S CHOICE AWARDS

- Stole idea from Paul Dols at Monrovia HS
- Each Staffulty Member (not just teachers) can choose one student for any reason they’d like.
- Invite students but don’t tell them who chose them or why.
- Provide food (snacks, desserts, drinks)
- Make it nice…banquet style.
- Adult gets up and speaks for 1-2 minutes on why they chose that student
  - VERY powerful if done right!
- TAKE Pictures together!
STAFFULTY RECOGNITION

- Thanksgiving Feast
- MIT Luncheon
- Teacher Honor Guard
- Staffulty Member of the Month
- Lawn Chair Lunch
- Paradise Place
- Heart Attack/Lovealanch
- Jewels
- Breakfast Cart
THANKSGIVING FEAST!

- Solicit local businesses for donations
  - KFC – Mashed Potatoes and gravy
  - Costco – Pies
  - Grocery stores – Corn, rolls, utensils, etc.
- Turkeys donated and cooked by families
- Leadership Student serve food
- Make “Thank You” video where each staff member gets thanked by at least one student
- Invite ALL Staffulty, not just teachers
MIT LUNCHEON

• (MIT) Most Inspirational Teacher/Staffulty

• Choose a student population (Senior Athletes, Performing Arts, GPA Jumpers, etc.)

• Have them choose their most inspirational Staffulty member from their years in HS.

• Slip with student name, Staffulty Name and SHORT reason why (Twitter post!)

• Host a lunch for students and teachers

• Give teachers something (plaque, lanyard, etc.)

• Take photo with adult and students
TEACHER HONOR GUARD

- Each graduation senior chooses their most impactful teacher from their ENTIRE educational career (K-12)
- We invite the teacher to walk with the student at graduation.
  - Most at your HS = Easy!
  - In district (Middle or Elem.) = Easy!
  - Out of district = Tough. 😞
  - Retired = Talk to office manager of last school
- Talk to your grad company about free gowns!
STAFFULTY MEMBER OTM

- Each month (when you do Student of the Month) have each administrator choose one Staffulty Member to the SOTM!
- Announce in their classroom in front of their students and say reason why and who chose!
- Make poster and hang outside their door.
- Personalized goodie
  - Staffulty Survey at start of year!
LAWN CHAIR LUNCH

• Choose a day (Friday works best) to get all your Staffulty out in the main lunch area and eating together!

• Nurtures relationships & Fights “Silos”

• Models good social behavior for kids (LEAVE PHONES IN YOUR CLASSROOM!!)

• Maybe have one department sponsor the gathering with food, dessert, drinks, etc.

• Celebrate those who show up! Don’t waste energy on the party poopers!
PARADISE PLACE

• Use Staffulty Survey from start of year
• One question is about dream vacation
• “Take” them to that place!
• Have students stay late one evening and get a custodian or admin to let you into their classroom of office
• Decorate the place like their dream location
• Leave notes of appreciation for the person.
HEART ATTACK/LOVEALANCHE

• Great way to welcome back a Staffulty member who was out for a tough reason
  • Death in family, injury, illness, etc.

• Find out when they are going to return

• Have students and colleagues fill out heart notes and cover their office/room/desk with notes of love and kindness

• Greeted with love and gratitude when they return.
Each staff meeting, have Staffulty members award a “Jewel” to a colleague and state why.

Start with Admin giving first ones, then those people give at next meeting

Buy acrylic jewels in bulk online

No matter how busy you get or what’s on the agenda...ALWAYS make sure you start the meeting with this practice of recognition!
BREKKFAST CART

• We have department meetings every 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Monday of the month.

• Leadership students put together a cart full of breakfast goodies

• Walk around campus and surprise departments with mini breakfast buffet!

• Donations:
  • Starbucks – Coffee
  • Costco – Bagels/Pastries
  • Superior Market - Fruit
WORKS FOR BOTH GROUPS!

- Recognition Rallies
- Birthdays
- #ThankfulThursdays
- Random Recognitions
- SOCIAL MEDIA!!
RECOGNITION RALLIES

• We do two, FALL and END OF YEAR

• FALL = GPA Jumpers, Welcome new Staffulty, Clubs, Staffulty Anniversaries, State Testing

• END OF YEAR = _____ of the Year (Teacher, Support Staff, Coach, Athlete, Conqueror) Retirees, Significant Achievement that year.
BIRTHDAYS

• Get master birthday list from office
• Commit to doing EVERYONE'S birthday!
  • BIG undertaking, but worth it!
  • Do HALF-birthdays for summer babies!
• Birthday Buttons (Cheap, buy in bulk!)
• There are students on your campus who may not get a happy birthday all day on their special day.
• Gauge teacher acceptance of disruption
  • Some love it, some despise it…adjust
#THANKFULTHURSDAYS

- Train your student leaders to look for things to be grateful for.
- Who has gone out of their way to help the school/Community?
- Who has helped the Leadership program?
  - Donations
  - Non-leadership students help clean after an event
  - Kind Adult/Student
RANDOM RECOGNITION

• SOOOOOO many reasons to celebrate!!
• Impossible to list them all!
• National ___ Day
• Babies, Marriage, Masters/Doctorate
• Midyear Retiree
• Kindness (#KindestKonqueror)
  • RAK Week
• Ding Dong Ditch!
SOCIAL MEDIA

- Everyone loves getting shout outs on Social Media (Students and Staffulty!)
- Pictures, Pictures, Pictures!!!
- Tag them in possible
- Hashtags
- Repost their posts (when appropriate)
MY CONTACTS

Chris Reeder
Los Altos High School
(626) 934-5505
creeder@hlpusd.k12.ca.us

Social Media
Twitter: @LAHS_Ren
Instagram: lahsasb
lahs_renaissance