



TEACHER



APPRECIATION



IDEAS

60 TEACHER
APPRECIATION IDEAS
FOR SPECIAL DAYS,
HOLIDAYS, AND
EVERY DAY

BAUDVILLE[®]
THE PLACE FOR DAILY RECOGNITION

INTRODUCTION

Teachers and school staff are committed, hard working, and dedicated professionals who rarely receive the recognition they deserve. The busy nature of schools makes it common to forget to say a simple “thank you” or “great job” to teachers, volunteers, and staff.

Regardless of our hectic schedules, taking the time to recognize the people at your school can have a huge impact on school spirit and morale. This ebook was written to equip schools with the ideas to keep recognition a priority year round.

The ebook is divided into six sections:

1. Back to School Teacher Appreciation Ideas
2. Teacher Appreciation Week Ideas
3. Birthday Teacher Appreciation Ideas
4. Holiday Teacher Appreciation Ideas
5. End of the School Year Teacher Appreciation Ideas
6. Everyday Teacher Appreciation Ideas

We hope these ideas will serve as a starting point to your own fun and creative teacher appreciation ideas. Share your own creative teacher appreciation ideas with us and other schools on the [Baudville Facebook page](#).

Cheers!

ABOUT BAUDVILLE

Baudville is the leading provider in day-to-day recognition and award solutions for schools and the workplace. Known for its high quality certificates and trophies, Baudville has long been a valued partner in the education market. For more information, visit Baudville.com.

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BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION IDEAS

1. Get to know your teachers. Prepare for teacher appreciation throughout the school year by having teachers complete a [Tell Us About You form](#). The form will gather valuable information about how teachers like to be recognized that staff, students, and parents can access all year!

2. Choose a recognition theme for the year. To jump start your year-long teacher appreciation events, choose a [recognition theme](#). Your theme will tie all your appreciation events together and make it consistent and effective. Introduce the theme to teachers by giving them a [themed lapel pin](#) they can wear.

3. Welcome teachers back to school with a gift. Put together a [gift bag](#) of items the teacher can use in the classroom and around school, like a tote bag, classroom supplies, coffee mug, and new pens.

4. Decorate the teacher's lounge. Make sure the lounge gets a thorough cleaning before school starts. Add an air freshener, bouquet of fresh flowers, and a bowl of mints for an extra touch of hospitality.

5. Give them a big “welcome back.” Express your appreciation for teachers by saying “welcome back” all over the school! Use chalk to decorate the sidewalks with your encouraging messages. You can say: “We missed you!” “It’s going to be a great year!” “Thanks for teaching here!”

6. Send teachers on a scavenger hunt. Send teachers on a hunt around the school to discover new resources, become familiar with room changes, and work as a team. Reward everyone with a small reception at the end.

7. Throw a welcome back party. Celebrate the beginning of the school year with a small party for teachers and staff. Have refreshments and give teachers a chance to catch up from the summer. This is great for building camaraderie!

8. Provide lunch during training. Teachers often have long days before school even begins. They go through training, orientation, and classroom set up. Provide some relief to the long days by putting on lunch for everyone. Host a potluck or have a local company cater. Your teachers will thank you!

9. Create stress relief kits. Being an educator is a stressful job! Give teachers a stress relief kit to start the school year that includes a [stress toy](#), fragrant candle, coupons to a local salon or masseuse, and of course, chocolate!

10. Send a note on the first day of school. Write a [personal note](#) to your child’s teacher or the teachers in your school and deliver it on the first day of school. In your note, express how excited you are for the new school year, how you’re looking forward to working with the teachers, and thank them for their dedication. Your note will get the school year started on the right foot!



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IDEAS

- 1. Celebrate with a recognition theme!** Select a [recognition theme](#) to coordinate all your gifts, communication, and activities for Teacher Appreciation Week. It will make the week more effective and memorable for the teachers.
- 2. Present awards to teachers.** Teacher Appreciation Week is an opportune time to present [awards](#) at your school. Your awards can be formal, like a Teacher of the Year award, or fun and include everyone, like a peer-to-peer traveling trophy award.
- 3. Hang signs throughout the school.** Say thank you across the halls and walls of your school by hanging “Thank you!” signs.
- 4. Write a handwritten thank you note.** Teachers still desire personal [thank you notes](#) from parents, students, and co-workers. Write a note to your favorite teacher and mail it to the school.
- 5. Students can make thank you cards, too.** As a class activity, all the students can make a personal thank you note for their teacher and deliver it during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- 6. Favorite treat surprise.** Surprise your teacher with one of her favorite treats in the morning, like a cup of coffee from her favorite coffee shop, donut, or fresh fruit salad.
- 7. Make a donation in honor of your teacher.** For a lasting and meaningful Teacher Appreciation Week idea, make a donation to your teacher’s favorite charity in her honor.
- 8. Provide lunch.** Treat all the teachers to lunch during Teacher Appreciation Week. You can either have the event catered by a local restaurant or ask parents to contribute to a potluck.
- 9. Host a party.** Invite the principal and school board members to join all the teachers for a celebratory reception at the school cafeteria. Ask them to say a few things about the teachers!
- 10. Give a gift to remember the celebration.** The best parties and appreciation events give the recipients a small gift to help them remember the event. Give your teachers a small token of your appreciation, like a special [notepad](#), [coffee mug](#), or [certificate](#).



BIRTHDAY TEACHER APPRECIATION IDEAS

- 1. Communicate birthdays throughout the school.** Post a sign on a bulletin board, make an announcement in your school newsletter, or share it on your intranet when there are teacher birthdays.
- 2. Decorate teacher's desks on their birthday.** Use balloons, banners, and crepe paper to make their desk festive before they arrive in the morning.
- 3. Give a group card.** Have the entire school staff sign a [birthday card](#) or [certificate](#). Present it to the teacher on their big day!
- 4. Get the students involved.** Have students each make a [birthday card](#) for their teacher. The personal touch will be extra memorable to the teacher!
- 5. Give the teacher a Happy Birthday lapel pin.** They get to wear the [birthday lapel pin](#) all day, letting people know, "It's my birthday!"
- 6. Share a dessert.** Take turns bringing in dessert on a teacher's birthday. Share a cake, cookies, or other sweet treat as a team!
- 7. Host a monthly celebration.** To simplify birthdays in your school, hold monthly birthday parties and honor all teachers and staff who had a birthday during the month.
- 8. Give a small birthday gift.** Teachers will appreciate a small token of your appreciation on their birthday. A small gift like [Sweet Treats](#) or their favorite candy is sure to make them smile.
- 9. Make the teacher king or queen for a day.** Pass around a school crown or tiara. On the teacher's birthday, she gets to wear the tiara and be queen of the school for the day! You get to decide the special privileges she can enjoy!
- 10. Send a birthday ePraise.** Parents should recognize teachers on their birthdays, too. It's quick and easy to send a [birthday ePraise](#) to your child's teacher from work, home, or on the go!



HOLIDAY TEACHER APPRECIATION IDEAS

- 1. Make the teacher's lounge festive.** Decorate the teacher's lounge for the various holidays and seasons. Bring in pumpkins for the fall and a small tree and wreath for the winter. The change in décor will help to brighten their days!
- 2. Halloween costume contest.** Hold a contest among the teachers for the best costume. Elect a panel of judges (they can be students!) or have the entire staff vote for their favorite outfit. Award the winners a [certificate](#) and a bag of Halloween candy.
- 3. Thanksgiving sweets.** Express your thankfulness for your teachers by providing an assortment of pies in the teacher's lounge for them to enjoy.
- 4. Teacher cookie exchange.** Organize parents to each bring in two dozen of their favorite holiday cookie. Put all the cookies in the teacher's lounge, and give teachers a special plate or container to stock up on their favorite cookies. Not only is it a nice treat, but it will save the teachers from having to do so much baking!
- 5. Beat the winter blues with a small gift.** Give each teacher a [coffee mug](#) with a packet of hot cocoa or tea. Add flavored syrups to the coffee bar in the teacher's lounge as a special treat.
- 6. Welcome teachers back after the New Year.** Ease the transition back to school from vacation with a [personal note](#) for each teacher. Place the notes on each teacher's desk, so they'll see it when they first return to the classroom.
- 7. Send a Valentine's note.** Give each teacher a Valentine's card and complete the statement "I love having you at this school because..." The cards can be handmade by the students at your school!
- 8. Luck of the Irish St. Patrick's Day.** Let your teachers know you feel lucky to have them at your school. Put a [Shamrock Character Pin](#) on each teacher's desk with a gold coin (chocolate, of course!). The message on the card lets the teacher know how much you appreciate their dedication.
- 9. Celebrate spring break.** Use the excitement of spring break to have some fun as a school and a team. Host tropical themed events throughout the week during lunch, before, or after school. A limbo contest will get all the teachers laughing, and you can award the winner a [certificate](#)!
- 10. Throw an egg hunt for teachers.** Hide eggs throughout the school for your teachers to find. You may need to do this after hours so the kids don't take them! For every egg they collect, their name gets entered into a raffle. Once the hunt is over, raffle off [prizes](#)! You can award a prize or a [certificate](#) to the teacher who collected the most eggs, too.



END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TEACHER APPRECIATION IDEAS

- 1. Create a Wall of Fame.** Honor all your teachers at the end of the year by creating a wall of fame. Create a spot for each teacher using [certificates](#) and their picture.
- 2. Summer fun pack.** Show your appreciation for teachers' hard work all year with a summer fun pack gift. Put summer items, like sunscreen, a paperback book, and a fan, in a plastic sand bucket. Present one to each teacher with a handwritten thank you note!
- 3. Create a memory book.** Ask students and parents to write their favorite memories from the year on a piece of [border paper](#). Put all the papers in a three ring binder and present it to the teacher on the last day.
- 4. Personalize a tote bag.** Teachers are always carrying around [tote bags](#) of books, student papers, and supplies. Make the standard tote bag more personal by having all the students sign their names on the bag with a fabric marker.
- 5. Plant a tree in honor of teachers.** Collect donations from parents and staff members, and plant a tree in honor of the teachers. Place the tree on school property where teachers and students can watch it grow every year.
- 6. Hold a teacher appreciation party.** Ask all the teachers to join you for a short reception at the end of the last day of school. Celebrate with cake and lemonade and thank them for a great school year.
- 7. Frame a picture of the class.** Frame a picture of the teacher's class and engrave a message on the [picture frame](#). The personal message will make the picture frame a special keepsake.
- 8. Provide a treat during exams.** Teachers get extremely busy at the end of the school year with exams, final grades, and special activities. Let them know you appreciate all their hard work by providing a treat. Put muffins in the teacher's lounge one morning and cookies for an afternoon.
- 9. Hold an award ceremony.** Honor outstanding teachers at the end of the year with a school-wide award ceremony. You can present each teacher with a [fun award certificate title](#) or give a few teachers an engraved [trophy award](#).
- 10. Write a personal thank you note.** End the year with a personal thank you note. Choose a [thank you greeting card](#) and share a favorite story or memory from the school year with the teacher.



EVERYDAY TEACHER APPRECIATION IDEAS

1. **Select a recognition theme to guide your recognition efforts for the year.** A [recognition theme](#) will make planning easier for you, and your appreciation will be more consistent and effective. Introduce the theme to teachers by giving them a small gift, like a [note cube gift set](#), that will sit on their desk and serve as a reminder of the program.
2. **Create an appreciation center.** Providing the tools for recognition is the best way to encourage recognition in your school. Create an area in the office where students, parents, and staff can access thank you cards, buttons, and other small giveaways. The [Cheers Kit and Caboodle](#) is perfect for schools and gives you three different recognition sentiments.
3. **Train recognition champions.** To keep recognition alive and strong at your school, it will need champions! Train teachers or parent volunteers to be recognition champions. They will manage the recognition program, encourage others to recognize, and keep the school stocked with recognition gifts.
4. **Implement peer recognition.** Peer recognition gets the entire school involved in recognition and is a great way to sing the praises of your teachers! Use the [Shout Outs peer recognition program](#) and post all your notes on a public bulletin board.
5. **Send an ePraise.** Let teachers know you appreciate them by sending [ePraise, a thank you ecard](#), throughout the year! You can send one to your favorite teacher in less than 5 minutes, and it doesn't cost anything!
6. **Surprise appreciation.** Spontaneous appreciation is very memorable and effective for the recipient. Randomly surprise the teacher with a [handwritten note](#) explaining why you enjoy working with them, or a small gift you know they will enjoy.
7. **Design a recognition program.** A formalized recognition program will stay front of mind for all teachers and staff. You can use [Tokens of Appreciation](#) or [Milestones](#) as small gifts that teachers can collect. Periodically throughout the year, they can turn in their tokens for prizes, like a special parking space, gift card, or classroom supplies.
8. **Brighten a staff meeting.** Make a school staff meeting more fun by providing snacks and refreshments for the teachers. Use colorful paper plates and napkins to make the meeting feel more festive.
9. **School traveling trophy.** Create a traveling trophy for your school. It can be a symbolic item or a stuffed animal version of your mascot. Each week, present the traveling trophy to a different teacher or staff member for going above and beyond. By the end of the year, everyone should have earned the trophy for a week!
10. **Peel and stick recognition.** Post a small note of appreciation on a teacher's door, mail box, or desk. The [peel and stick recognition note set](#) has a fun sentiment already on it, so all you have to do is sign your name!

