Saying 'Thank You' Right:

A Toolkit for Authentic Staff Recognition



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Year #23

My Core Values:
1. Gratitude
2. Interdependence
3. Hope



What You'll Leave With:

How to tailor appreciation efforts for your team

Strategies to build lasting recognition

A tool to jumpstart student relationship building

Leadership Effort vs. Bandwidth



A Toolkit for Authentic Staff Appreciation

What are some of the most common appreciation gestures used schoolwide?



Question:

What's a schoolwide appreciation moment or tradition at *your school* that HITS(!)?







CONTINUE the donut deliveries!

CONTINUE the treat trolley!



CONTINUE the staff shout outs!

CONTINUE giving those mugs & totes!



...here's what happened next





AND...

"Personalized recognition—versus generic gestures—significantly boosts intrinsic motivation and improves retention, particularly in mission-driven fields like education.

-Harvard Business Review (2016)



need de lunteer





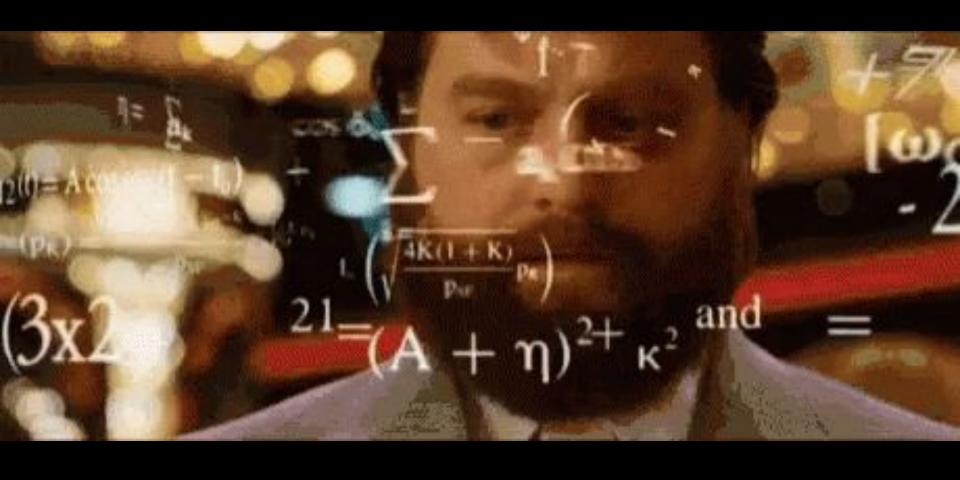
Do you know your appreciation language?



Scenario:

It's been a long, exhausting day. You've juggled a million things, and someone steps in to help without being asked. Afterward, how would you feel most appreciated for that support?"

- Words of Affirmation: Someone takes a moment to specifically tell you what you did well and how it mattered.
- **Gifts:** Someone surprises you with your favorite treat or coffee as a thank-you.
- Acts of Service: Someone offers to handle a task for you so you can breathe for a moment.
- Quality Time: Someone carves out time just to sit with you, listen, and connect.
- Physical Touch: Someone gives you a fist bump, high five, or shoulder pat to say, 'You've got this.'



Why The Survey?

- Avoid Wasted Effort
- Personalize Appreciation
- Boost Morale Efficiently

The Survey

- 1. Name
- 2. Which of the following best reflects how you feel most appreciated at work?
- 3. OPTIONAL: If there are 2 that may resonate most with you, select a second.











Quality Time:

time set aside to connect through conversation, collaboration & attention

Gifts:

meaningful tokens that reflect appreciation & intentional effort

Words of Affirmation:

compliments that reflect gratitude or appreciation & speak to impact

Physical Touch:

non-intimate touch or body language that reinforces a sense of presence

Acts of Service:

acts that ease burden of responsibility through initiative, care & kindness

<u>Survey Language (Pt.1)</u>



Quality Time:

time set aside to connect through conversation, collaboration & attention

Gifts:

meaningful tokens that reflect appreciation & intentional effort

<u>Survey Language (Pt.2)</u>



Words of Affirmation:

compliments that reflect gratitude or appreciation & speak to impact



Physical Touch:

non-intimate touch or body language that reinforces a sense of presence

<u>Survey Language (Pt.3)</u>



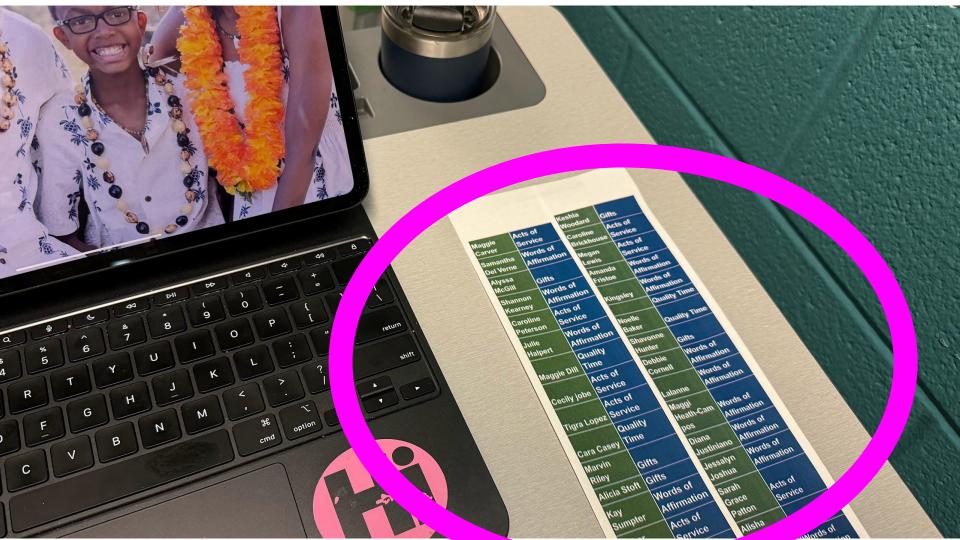
Acts of Service:

acts that ease burden of responsibility through initiative, care & kindness

*Digital Copy Linked in Presentation Materials







Anchors & Impact

- Operationalize Gratitude
- Know Your People
- Retain Through Recognition

*Handouts are also linked in Presentation Materials

Question:

What's one question today's session has sparked about appreciation *efforts* in general?

Question:

How could teachers use this to personalize praise and build stronger relationships with their students?

Anchors & Impact

- Personalize Student Feedback
- Build Meaningful Connections
- Foster Student Belonging

*Handouts are also linked in Presentation Materials

The Potential Challenge of Collecting Data





-effort-

Speaking a staff member's appreciation language isn't **extra**—it's efficient leadership

Everyone knows what works.

Few do it after it stops being exciting.



THANK YOU



60 Second Feedback!