

Renaissance Recognition

Idea #104: BUG Program



School type: Middle School, High School

Activity goal: Motivate students to improve grades.

Prep Time: 2-4 hours for promotion, 3-6 hours to monitor quarterly grades

People required: Someone to monitor grades, order supplies and serve as a point person for students.

Space requirements: None

Timing: Early school year promotions, then quarterly

Materials: posters, paper for the contracts and bright paper for the contract cover.

Cost: \$10 or less for each student who Brings Up their Grades

Submitted by: Carolyn Jones, Conway High School East, Conway, AR

OVERVIEW

This is an activity that all students can participate in, whether they are 4.0 or .5 GPA students. It is called BUG, which stands for Bring Up your Grades.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Begin promoting the program during the early part of the school year.
2. Once the first nine-week grading period has ended and grades have been distributed, invite students to commit to improving their grades for the next quarter.
3. Create contracts: The contract should ask each student to identify up to three courses he/she wishes to target to “Bring Up” over the next nine weeks. The contract also requires that students identify several SMART goals/steps that will help them achieve the higher grades. One stipulation on the contract is that no other course grade can drop a letter grade (grades can drop by a few points, but not by a whole letter grade).
4. Print cover letters that explain the program in detail on bright paper, such as neon green.
5. Students sign the contract, take it home to be reviewed and signed by a parent/guardian, and return it to the counseling center. Even raising the percentage grade one point will mean a goal achieved.
6. Students who achieve their goals are recognized at an event we call BUG Out Day, where they receive incentives for each raised percentage grade. BUG Out Day is held the week after report cards are issued. Incentives could include items imprinted with the high school logo, Oops Coupons (forgotten homework and 5 test bonus points), free school store items, and of course, goodie treat bags.