

Renaissance Rallies

Idea #101: Planning a Renaissance Rally



OVERVIEW

Renaissance Rallies are a great way to celebrate all of the positive behaviors you look for in your students. Celebrate great grades, improving grades, athletic achievement, community involvement, perfect attendance, and any other behavior that deserves praise. These steps are meant as a loose guide and as a jumping point for your own ideas and alterations for your students.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. A general guide for the format of a Renaissance Rally is as follows: Recognition-Entertainment-Recognition-Entertainment
2. Determine roles and responsibilities. Having students as involved as possible in the planning and execution of a rally is a great strategy (depending on student age). Even if students are planning the rally, it is important to have an adult overseeing the committee to ensure all aspects of the rally are planned and ready for a full audience.
3. Select a Rally theme. The theme sets the tone for the positive message that will be portrayed during the rally and can be the starting point for skits, games, competitions, and music that occurs throughout. (See other Renaissance Rally best practices for scripts with examples of different themes.)
4. Create a recognition list. Decide who will be recognized for this rally and remember that the purpose is to create energy and excitement around behaviors you want to see from all students. Some examples of reasons for recognition are: Top % of academics, Members of a club, x% increase in GPA, perfect attendance this semester, volunteer of the semester, etc.
5. Based on how many people you plan to recognize, create a script/agenda. This will include the fun activities you plan on doing, skits, music that you want to play, competitions between classes and the methods of recognition. Using audio-visual components is a great way to keep things short. It's a good idea to time out any speaking parts and games or other activities so that you don't run out of time for recognition. (See script examples in the Best Practice Library)
6. Don't be afraid to start small but with a big 'WOW' factor. The key is high energy and audience involvement. As you become rally pros, you and your students will add more elaborate skits and activities to your rally.
7. Submit your Renaissance Rally themes, tips, and scripts to the Best Practice Library so others can build on your successes and learn from any challenges that may have occurred.

School type: K-12

Activity goal: Create a culture of excitement and celebration for positive behaviors in your school

Prep Time: 2-6 weeks

People required: A committee to plan and execute the rally

Space requirements: Space for the student body, probably a gym.

Timing: Can be anytime, but usually at least twice a year.

Materials: A rally script, costumes, games/activities, prizes/awards

Cost: \$20+ (depending on activities and forms of recognition, it could be no financial cost)

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