

Renaissance Recognition Idea #103: Sign on the Line



School type: High School

Activity goal: Celebrate college-bound seniors, and inspire younger students.

Prep Time: 2-4 hours

People required: Students accepted to college, principal.
Optional: Student's family, college rep, media.

Space requirements: Lunch room table

Timing: March, lunch time

Materials: Balloons, streamers or other décor in the color of the student's college, "Hall of Fame" display space, "Letter of Intent"

Cost: \$25 or less for each student

Submitted by: Paul Dols, Monrovia High School Monrovia, CA

OVERVIEW

The SIGN ON THE LINE ceremony is an academic play off of when high school athletes sign letters of intent to the university they plan on attending and playing for. The Principal reads the pronouncement of the student's choice and then they sign a "Letter of Intent" with the college representative. The student and their family are photographed and then placed in a "Student Hall of Fame."

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Let seniors know that they should tell you once they've been accepted to college (and which college).
2. Set a date that will work for the student, principal and other key participants.
3. Reserve a prominent table in the lunchroom. You may want to do this every Friday in March, or on several dates that work for you. Keep in mind that acceptance letters come in over the course of several weeks, and that announcing them as they come in helps build excitement and awareness.
4. Create a certificate or a brief letter that the student can sign to demonstrate that they intend to follow through on attending the college.
5. Get some décor in the colors of the student's college. Perhaps the college's rep can help, or you could purchase balloons or streamers in the college's colors.
6. Invite the principal, the student's family, the college rep, and media. Media can include local TV stations and newspapers, as well as popular bloggers.
7. About 30 minutes before lunch, decorate the table with the balloons and streamers.
8. Bring the "Letter of Intent" to the celebration.
9. Have the principal announce the student's choice, then have the student sign the "Letter of Intent" with the college rep (if available).
10. Take a photo of the student and their family and any other key participants, such as the principal.
11. Display the photo in the "Hall of Fame" space.