

Renaissance Recognition

Idea #101: Students of the Month Club



School type: Middle School, High School

Activity goal: Encourage positive behavior

Prep Time: 1-3 hours

People required: Principal and staff

Space requirements: P: Regular classroom or desk space. A room for the monthly “Students of Success” meeting.

Timing: Monthly

Materials: Nomination form, letter to student and parents, certificates, small prizes, treats/refreshments

Cost: \$10-\$20 per student depending on scope and scale of approach.

Submitted by: Dr. Tricia Pena Cienega High School, AZ

OVERVIEW

In many schools, staff can nominate one student for “student of the month” recognition. This idea is to expand the criteria so that staff can nominate as many students as they like, as often as they like, for any behavior they think makes a difference. The students are invited to the Student of the Month meeting where they can be recognized and are given an opportunity to provide feedback to the principal on their school. The program is credited with improving overall climate and culture, relationships, collaboration and cooperation.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Talk with your principal about the benefits of having a “Students of the Month”
2. Create a nomination form and put it on the school’s website or in an easy place for staff to find and make sure everyone knows the monthly deadline for nominations.
3. Introduce the program to staff and let them know that they can nominate as many students as they like, for any behavior they think makes a difference.
4. Set a monthly deadline for nominations. Here are some examples: getting to school on time for 10 days in a row, being the default “campus tour guide,” or helping out in a special way.
5. The student and parent(s) receive a letter of invitation at home explaining the recognition.
6. Order supplies like certificates and small prizes as well as some treats for the Student of the Month meeting.
7. Invite administration, and other stakeholders to the ceremony/meeting with the students and parents.
8. Have small prizes to give to your students along with certificates for their achievement. Remember that even small things, like a bright magnet, provide a wonderful opportunity for students to spread the word about their good experiences.
9. Take photos! They might come in handy for future “Student of the Month” promotions, the yearbook, etc.
10. Take notes on what the students say when invited to give feedback.