

Tips and Strategies for Virtual Teacher Appreciation

Teachers have a tremendous impact on the learning and lives of their students and communities, and planning a unique and powerful teacher appreciation week is one way to celebrate their incredible contributions. School and district leaders can use the strategies below as a starting point to plan meaningful ways to recognize all that they do, every day.

Tips for choosing the right strategies:

- Find a way to gather data from your teams about what would make them feel the most appreciated—this could be as simple as a survey asking teachers directly or a brainstorming session with leaders who know your teachers the best.
- Get insights from your larger community to leverage their strengths and expertise—This is a great way to tap into the resources you already have to show appreciation to your teachers!
- Beyond Teacher Appreciation Week, consider how you will continue to plan opportunities to provide support, recognition, and positive experiences for your teachers and broader school community.

Each of the virtual teacher appreciation week strategies falls into one or more of the following buckets: Support, Recognition, Experiences, and/or Community Involvement.



Support: Providing learning opportunities, acts of service, and/or resources that are uniquely tailored to teachers' needs and interests.



Experiences: Virtual opportunities to connect and enjoy each others company.




Recognition: Acts of gratitude, appreciation, and praise that celebrate the unique strengths, contributions, and accomplishments of teachers.



Community Involvement: Engaging members of the community (students, families, broader members of the school district, community partners) to participate in and contribute to celebrating teachers.

Here are some of our favorite strategies that we hope will inspire you to celebrate your teachers virtually. Share with us and the online community the creative ways you are celebrating your teachers, by sharing on twitter and tagging [@edelements](https://twitter.com/edelements).

Virtual Teacher Appreciation Week Strategies	 Support	 Recognition	 Experiences	 Community Involvement
Teach or co-plan one of your teacher's virtual classes	●			
Provide teachers with a unique school or district professional development opportunity or 1-1 coaching experience	●			●
Ask students/families/community members to record a short video sharing reasons they love & appreciate their teacher		●		●
Host a teacher happy hour (see tips and resources from this Education Elements Joy on the Job Happy Hour)			●	
Host a virtual awards show; consider having teachers/community members contribute nominations		●	●	
Have leadership team send out personal notes of appreciation—email, handwritten, text, social media		●		
Send a survey to school community with teacher names listed and a request for one word of praise—make a word cloud of results and send to each person		●		●
Organize themed days to create Teacher Appreciation Spirit Week –consider teacher participation in selecting themes			●	●
Invite families/friends of teachers to join in a virtual learning or community-building activity	●		●	●
Create and distribute yard signs declaring: “an awesome teacher lives here!”		●		●
Launch a social media campaign sharing public praise for teachers		●	●	●
Organize a Teacher Appreciation Car Parade		●	●	●
Host different virtual wellness sessions - meditation, yoga, exercise class, cooking class, etc. –consider enlisting community members to lead various offerings	●		●	●
Facilitate a teacher-to-teacher secret buddy for the week (assign teachers another teacher that they send a nice note /favorite quote/ etc. to each day)		●	●	
Offer teachers a learning experience of their choice—newsletter subscription, online course, resource budget, etc.	●		●	
Send gifts to teachers—gift card, book, school swag, etc.	●		●	●