

Monday Ideas, March 8, 2021

Taking Note of Successes



Teacher Ideas:

This Monday, let's take note of some staff members who might benefit from a different kind of note. Think of two or three teachers that you know are a bit burned out, struggling, overwhelmed, or feeling unappreciated. Walk down the hallway and peek into their classrooms and notice something that is just slightly impressive. It can be anything, such as a decoration, the way the students are working and responding, how the teacher is reacting. Anything. Take note of what you notice. If your teachers are online, pop in occasionally into their virtual classroom to say hello to the teacher and students and notice what the conversations are like. Notice how the students are responding. Notice how the teacher is delivering information. Take note of what you notice.

Then, compose a brief note, and if you have time, make it handwritten. Use some of the solution focused notes on the next page or, create your own. Make sure to get the note to them no later than Tuesday so they can enjoy it this week. (You can also use the notes for students who might need a lift too!)

Make the note solution focused by giving the teacher **all of the credit!**

Dear Ms. Garcia,

I walked by your English classroom today and listened briefly to you explain the assigned poem to your students. The way you presented the poem made the students really listen. We are so fortunate to have you at our school. I am amazed at your passion and appreciate you very much.

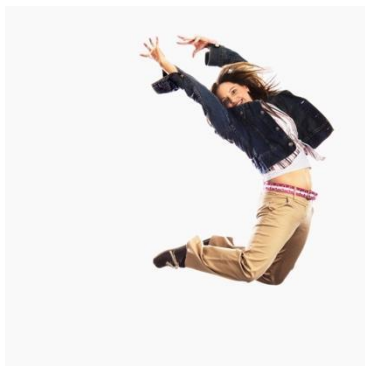
*Signed,
School Counselor*



I noticed something about you that I just had to share:



I can't believe it! How did you DO that?



You amaze me.



You seem to just light up your classroom.

Guidance Lesson

Noticing things in others that makes them interesting and fun to be around is a social emotional learning opportunity. Begin with a discussion about people in the students' lives that they like being around and try to get a glimpse of what makes those people fun to be around. You can adapt the concept to all grades:

Tell me some people in your life that you admire or like to be around. What is it about them that makes you really like to be with them? When you are around those people, how do you feel? What do you do?

I want you to think about something: When others are kind or nice to you, it may be because they see something in you that is very important.

Tell me, what do you hope (wish) others will see in you that will make them want to be around you too? What might you do more often so they could see those things?

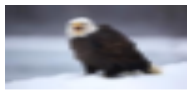
Get a list going! This can be left behind for the teacher to refer to during the week. Call it something like "our best selves." If students get off track, the teacher can refer to the list and wonder where the best selves are hiding.

Afterwards, as an additional activity, pass out the notes on the next page and let students choose a picture on a card that reminds them of the person they really like being around. Example: If they think a person is strong, choose the tiger. If they think the person is sweet, choose a puppy. There are several samples. They can even draw something that reminds them of the person.

Ask them to write a short note to the person and give it to them today or tomorrow. Encourage the students to write what the person does that they like and the feeling they have when they are around them.



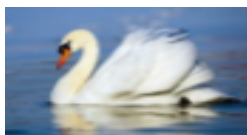
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