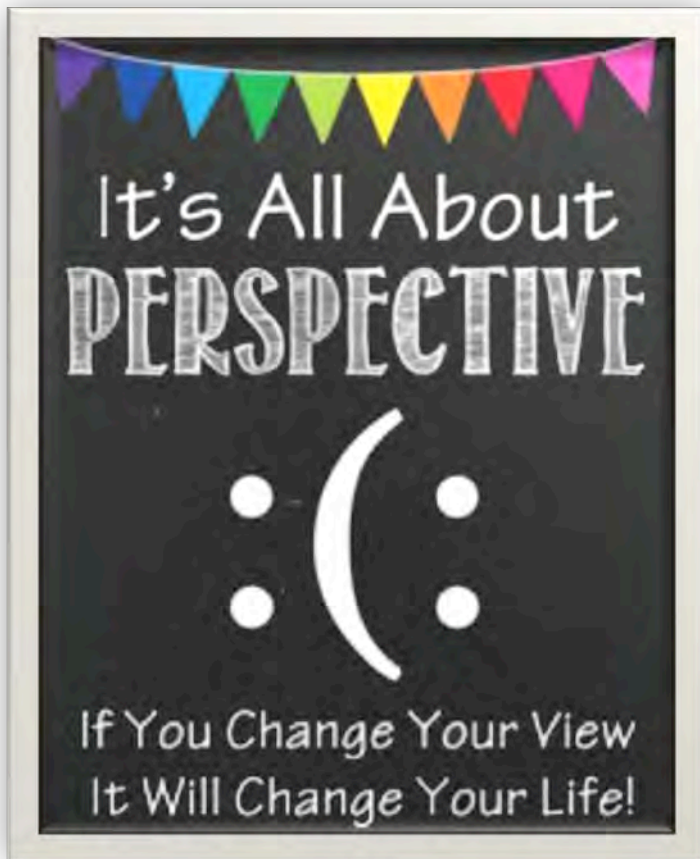


Spirit Ideas

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”



SCHOOL
SPIRIT



KCrawford

We know it when we feel it: School spirit warms a school, makes everyone smile and brings people together. It makes them feel that they are part of something greater than themselves.

SPIRIT IDEAS – Middle School Idea Sharing Fall Leadership Conference 2018

The following links will lead you to additional ideas for building spirit or a sense of belonging at your school!

50 Surefire Ways to Build School Spirit!

<https://www.weareteachers.com/50-surefire-ways-to-build-school-spirit/>

75 spirit day ideas

<https://www.signupgenius.com/school/spirit-day-themes.cfm>

50 spirit day ideas for middle schools

<https://www.signupgenius.com/school/spirit-day-ideas-middle.cfm>



School spirit warms a school, makes everyone smile and brings people together. It makes ... Great ideas for middle school or high school teachers to use for pep .

(Pinterest - <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/153544668525587885/?lp=true>)

Principals share their favorite spirit-building activities. ... Twenty-Five Activities for Building Student Character, School Community ... into the school day to build student character and to develop a sense of community in your school.

https://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/focus/building_school_climate.shtml

When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very ... connect at school? What makes a positive school community?

<https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/belonging-and-connectedness/belonging-school-makes-difference>

Here are 10 great ideas for boosting spirit at your school. ... take the time to build school spirit instill a sense of pride in their students that can result in ... plans, such as involving the whole school in a community service project.

<https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/5950-10-ideas-for-building-spirit-at-your-school>

**SHOW YOUR
SCHOOL SPIRIT!**

Creating a sense of unity benefits students, teachers, and families. ... When parent groups and schools work together to build a strong sense of community, ... to create camaraderie, engagement, and a sense of belonging.

<https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/5949-5-ways-to-build-school-community>



School spirit is about community. It is about believing in something bigger than oneself. It is about understanding and feeling that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts, and that as an entity a strong school can be a powerful force in individual lives. School spirit is about believing that you as an individual are an important piece of this big picture and that what you belong to is something to be proud of and excited about.



Spirit Competitions

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- three-legged race
- gunny sack race
- pizza / pie eating
- tricycle race
- wheelbarrow relay



q

- lifesaver pass
- tug-o-war
- hot potato
- apple biting
- orange pass under chin



q

- water balloon toss
- broom hockey

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- Jell-O / mud wrestling
- marshmallow on a string
- egg on a spoon relay



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- musical chairs
- canned food stack
- 100-piece puzzle race

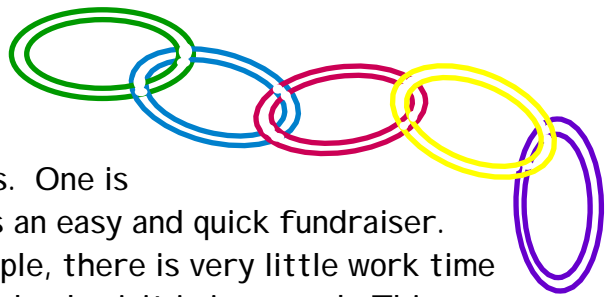
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You can have fun spirit competitions at lunch, at a field day, during a pep rally, etc. You can even set up an obstacle course and challenge students and staff to compete (just keep it simple and short)!



SPIRIT LINKS

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The SPIRIT LINKS activity has two purposes. One is to help promote school spirit and the other is an easy and quick fundraiser. The materials are minimal, the planning is simple, there is very little work time involved, some money is raised, and, overall, school spirit is improved. This activity is usually run as a competition among the grades.



A large, see-through jar (plastic, not glass) is labeled for each grade. At lunch time, all of the jars are set on a table with a student always monitoring the jars. Students drop their "spare change" in their grade-level jar. Each 5¢ earns that grade a "spirit link". Each day, the amount of money in each jar is counted and "spirit links" (paper chains - a different color for each grade) are put together and hung up in the cafeteria (or front hallway) so students "see" which grade has more spirit. The "see- through" jar is also a strong motivator for spirit.

Before and After jobs....(great for students who cannot participate daily...)

MATERIALS/JOBS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DATE
large see-through plastic jars (a slot cut for coins in each tops) - one for each grade			
cut and connect links to form chains of nine links			
prepare and put up publicity (PA announcements, skits, etc.)			
take down publicity posters			
take down spirit links			



Daily Jobs	Gds	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
monitor jars at lunch						
count money and complete charts after lunches						
write daily PA announcements to promote competition						
put up spirit links DAILY						

Sample Pass

SPRIT LINKS Club Name _____

Please excuse this student from class 5 minutes before lunch and then admit into class 5 minutes after lunch. He/she is monitoring the money jars at lunch and needs to pick them up and return them to the advisor. Thank you.

Student _____

Grade _____ Date _____

SGA Advisor _____



*These charts **MUST** be completed **DAILY** and the **SPRIT LINKS** put up **DAILY** in order to keep the competition going !!!*

RUNNING TOTAL NUMBER OF SPRIT LINKS BY GRADE

GRADE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES	THURSDAY	FRIDAY

Helpful Hints:

- connect spirit links in sets of 9, then in the afternoons, connect the new chains with the previous chains with one link, making an additional 10 links each time. (If you anticipate great participation, you could connect in groups of 25, 50, etc.) - use a paper cutter to cut paper into appropriate length and width
- make links big enough to connect with a stapler (faster and cheaper than tape)
- hang the chains high enough so students cannot jump up and grab them. (You may need to have building service lend a tall ladder each day!)



DIVIDE THE MONEY BY .05¢
TO GET THE NUMBER OF LINKS

Grade	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	#	#	#	#	#
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	#	#	#	#	#
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	#	#	#	#	#
DAILY \$ TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

This is an easy activity to modify...for example -

- use red-white-blue paper chains
- allow the grade with the most chain links to "chain" a different teacher each period (that class has a "free period")
- write names on the links and have a drawing to choose students for special prizes (certificates to fast food restaurant, etc.)

WE ARE A COMMUNITY



CLOWN DAY
(high risk)

clash day
(medium risk)

mascot day
(high risk)

tie day
(low risk)



Hawaiian day
(high risk)



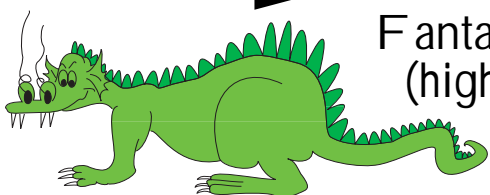
Wear Green
Day
(low risk)



Spirit Days



baby day
(high risk)



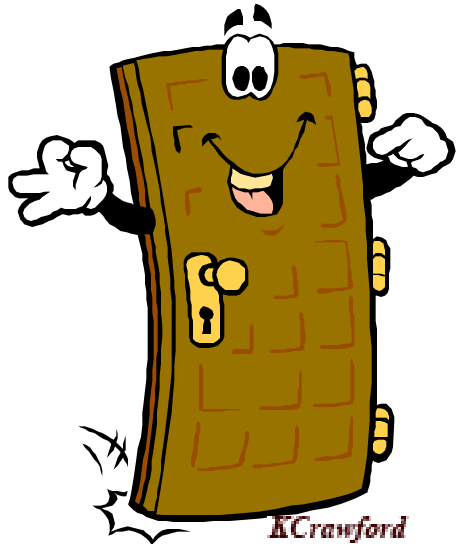
Fantasy Day
(high risk)



wig day (high risk)

Spirit Pointers:

- send judges around homerooms to count the number of students that dress-up and choose individual winners for each class
- announce winning class and individuals at end of day
- announce winning class of whole week
- have lunch-time activities and competitions
- have after-school and night activities
- have a full spirit day with club activities and a pep rally



Door Decorating

CHECKLIST:

THEME:

Objectives

- _____ approval of objectives by administration/advisor
- _____ set dates (CHECK MASTER CALENDAR IN OFFICE)
- _____ Decide on contest participants (ie...by grade, team, period, teacher, homeroom, subject, hallway, whole class, individuals elected class "artists", etc.)
- _____ approval by School Improvement Team, faculty, etc.
- _____ choose a door (classroom door, sign up for a door, can you decorate more than one door?, etc.)
- _____ logistics (introduced during class, class time given, times set aside after school, leave it up to the teacher?, etc.)
- _____ materials (provide your own, sponsoring club supply some?, other resources, etc.)
- _____ how judged (POSSIBLE CATEGORIES: creativity, craftsmanship, original, most outrageous, most colorful, most people participating, most factual, most representative of other cultures, best theme representation, etc.)
- _____ who judging (preselected students who do not participate, club officers, teachers and staff, parents, a combination of the above, etc.)
- _____ when judging will occur (during lunches, after school, etc.)
- _____ announcement of winners (PA, poster, ribbons on the doors, etc.)
- _____ recognition (ribbons, certificates of participation, thank you notes, newspaper when to remove (set a date, at teacher's discretion, etc.)