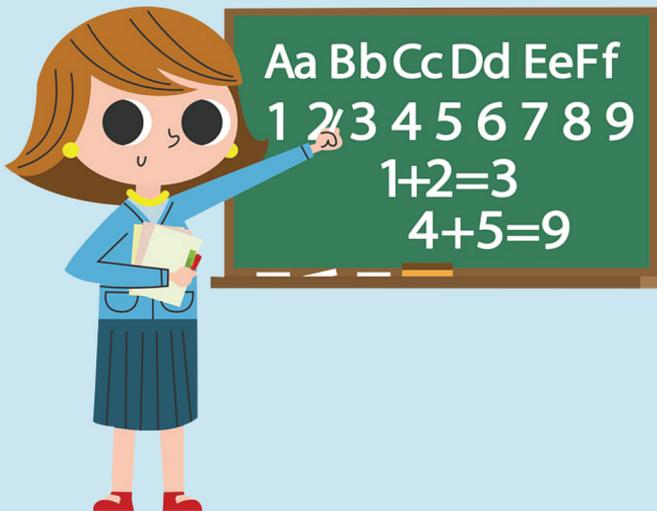


APPRECIATE MY TEACHER PROGRAM *HAND BOOK*



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PROGRAM
HAND BOOK

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Thank You Teacher!

Teachers, Teachers, Teachers

Teachers model behaviors of learners and take a vested interest in each child. Teachers give their lives to their students. Teachers are role models, change agents and influencers of the future destiny of their students.

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Preface

Education is the main pillar of development; and teachers are at the centre. Therefore teachers are the main pillars of a progressive society or nation. They bear the weight and responsibility of teaching society in all areas. They are the main source of knowledge and values for children. Therefore it is right to say that teachers play a key role in shaping the future of a student, family, society and a nation.

Teaching is a calling and a good teacher loves sharing knowledge. Teachers support, prepare, nurture and encourage their students to succeed. They feel a desire to teach and share ideas, communicate concepts and inspire conversation with those around them. The role of teachers in society is very significant and cannot be given a price.

Most other professionals do not share the knowledge like teachers. Other professionals only use their knowledge to work and succeed. But they would not have been able to get where they are without teachers. Unlike other professionals, teachers like sharing the information they have. Right from the early age, children find themselves in the hands of teachers. Throughout life, teachers inspire students and teach them academic and professional issues, societal and sometimes spiritual values. Teachers treat their learners like their own children. They teach their students how to make it in life and how to stand strong amidst challenges. There is no profession that compares with the teaching profession.

Please join me as we appreciate teachers in our lives.

Chris Muhango

Team Leader, "Appreciate my Teacher" Program



Preamble

From UNESCO

“UNESCO declared 5th October as the World Teachers Day in 1994. Teachers’ Day represents a significant effort to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development across the globe. There are plenty of events organized yearly around the world to celebrate teachers’ day. Everyone can help by celebrating the profession, by generating awareness about teacher issues, by ensuring that teacher respect is part of the natural order of things. Take the opportunity of the day to discuss, compare, learn, argue, share and improve the teaching profession”.

<https://en.unesco.org/events/world-teachers-day>

From USA National Teacher’s Appreciation Week

“The National Teacher’s Appreciation Week is upon us from May 7th- May 11th and National Teacher Day is May 8th. It’s the perfect time to appreciate teachers in your life, past or present. Who do you know that is a teacher? Your child’s teacher, a friend, a family member, maybe one of your own teachers from a college or grad course? There is surely someone you know that is a teacher. I’m proud to say that I have been a teacher for 15 years working alongside terrific teachers that impact lives every day. During this week teachers are thanked for their service in this wonderful profession. There are important reasons why you should appreciate teachers not only this week, but every day”.

<https://www.fortheloveofteachers.com>

From Australian Teacher Education Association

“Even though teachers may not be the highest paid professionals, they get a tremendous amount of respect from society. Teachers are valued as a critical component of a civilized society. Many establishments, like retail stores and restaurants, offer discounts and special deals that are only open to teachers”.

Australian Teacher Education Association.



Teaching is a challenging job

Being a teacher is a complicated and challenging life choice that needs respect and recognition on an ongoing basis. The men and women who make this noble job their calling and career path, make a commitment to children as if they were their own. Many times in their lives they will make choices to serve the greater good in quiet ways that don't get recognition.

Whether it is answering student emails until wee hours of the night or reading and assessing student work, providing excellent feedback to help each child grow, teachers spend a good amount of their personal lives making the academic lives of their students possible; there just isn't enough time in any given school day to do what we do effectively. (http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/work_in_progress/2018/05/recognize_and_appreciate_teach.html).

“Teachers’ Day is a special day for the appreciation of teachers, and may include celebrations to honor them for their special contributions in a particular field area, or the community in general. The idea of celebrating Teachers’ Day took root in many countries during the 19th century; in most cases, they celebrate a local educator or an important milestone in education”. Wikipedia



Teachers' contribution

Students depend on their teachers. They trust and believe in them. For some students, a teacher is the first person to help whenever need arises. Students look to their teachers nearly for all things especially in lower classes. Teachers take their commitment to their students, classrooms, and schools very seriously. They know how much students depend on them for knowledge, support, encouragement and inspiration. Teachers know that each student is unique and therefore learns and needs assistance in a unique way.

Teachers play great roles and make lasting impact in the lives of people during and after their education journeys. Teachers' contributions to their students include the following:

- Offering academic knowledge and professional skills.
- Encouraging students to exploit their potential and excel in academics, extra curriculum activities and in life generally.
- Mentoring students and building their future characters through talks and mentorship opportunities.
- Offering counseling to students while at school and supporting them in case they have challenges in areas of their lives.
- Offering medical and health related support to students while they're sick at school.
- Creating a bond and relationship with their students, which in most cases is of benefit to students.



Teachers are not proportionately appreciated

Teachers are not proportionately appreciated compared to the role they play in the lives of people. For example, their pay is the least compared to other professionals. During government functions, teachers are not recognized and appreciated the way other officials especially politicians are recognized. Most parents and former students do not appreciate their teachers during special occasions like graduations and weddings. Instead, more recognition and praises are given to parents, friends, relatives, workmates and sometimes politicians, who in some cases do not even know the person at the centre of the celebration.

Nowadays, people are very busy and many may not get a moment to think, reflect and appreciate teachers and their contribution in their lives. TIG Institute therefore has initiated “Appreciate my Teacher” program to give an opportunity to students, former students and parents to promote a culture of appreciating teachers and other people that have played great roles in their lives.

In other countries like the USA, they have developed a culture of appreciating, honoring and recognizing teachers who have made lasting contributions to their lives. They have a special week and day in the month of May that was gazetted to honor and show appreciation for teachers of all levels (pre-primary, primary, secondary and college/ university). Students and parents use this day as an opportunity to say “Thank you” and to give gifts and cards to their teachers.



Appreciate my Teacher Program

Objectives of “Appreciate my Teacher” program

- Recognize, honor and show appreciation to teachers at all levels.
- Offer an opportunity to current students, former students and parents to say “Thank You” to their teachers.

Benefits of “Appreciate my Teacher” program

Through this program:

- Teachers will feel valued and appreciated after receiving appreciation messages from their students, parents and friends. This will result into a state of happiness, joy and good health for teachers. Some teachers will end up shedding tears of joy after receiving such messages. This may even add more years to their lives.
- Teachers will be encouraged and motivated to put in their level best to continue teaching and shaping the future of their students. This will increase efficiency, performance and the quality of the education given to students.

Participating in “Appreciate my Teacher” Program

The program gives an opportunity to people to effectively participate in the activities that promote the teaching profession and campaign activities for appreciating the great role played by teachers.

TIG Institute will partner with various stakeholders (teachers, parents and students) and give them guidance and coaching on how to get involved in the program activities.



Proposed roles of stakeholders during the program

Parents

- Talk to their children, encourage and enable them to develop a culture of appreciating their teachers and other people who have helped them.
- Support their children to offer gifts and presents to teachers.
- Remind children to recognize teachers during important occasions.

Students and former students

- Create time and look for opportunities of appreciating their teachers.
- Develop a culture of inviting and appreciating their teachers during special occasions.

Teachers

- Teach students to develop a culture of appreciating people who have helped them in their lives e.g. parents, relatives, friends, teachers, e.t.c.
- Participate in this program and offer an opportunity to students to appreciate teachers.

Religious leaders

- Preach and promote a culture of appreciating people.
- Participate in this program.

Private Sector

- Offer some of their products as gifts to incentivise lucky teachers and students. Lucky ones will be identified by the program. In return, the private sector actors will be given an opportunity to promote their products among the people participating in the program.

Government

- Promote this program by recognizing it as a tool for motivating teachers and helping students to develop a culture of appreciating people.

General public

- Participate in the program by promoting a culture of appreciating and recognizing teachers for the lasting contributions they make to people's lives.



How to appreciate teachers

Teacher appreciation nominations

Parents and students participating in the “Appreciate my Teacher” program will be given an opportunity by the program to show their appreciation to teachers who have impacted their lives by nominating them for recognition and awards if possible. Such opportunities will include parents and students nominating their best teacher(s) in their lives. The plan is to carry out the nomination exercise using online or mobile (phone) tools. The nominations will be captured at the national level and chosen or lucky teachers will get gifts or prizes.

These will be exciting moments that will enable teachers who have never been known to be recognized at the national levels. Under this program, any teacher has an opportunity of being nominated and stands equal chances of being declared the best teacher. People will be encouraged to use this opportunity to tell their teachers how much you appreciate them and the impact they have made on your life.

Teacher appreciation by companies

Companies and organizations that offer products and services that are used by schools, teachers, parents and students will also be given an opportunity to offer awards, prizes, gifts, special offers and discounts to teachers as a way of thanking teachers. Through such sponsorships, companies and organizations will be promoting their brands, goods and services among teachers, parents and students.



Strategy for promoting the program

The program will mainly be promoted through teachers and students in schools. The planned tools for promoting the program include:

“Appreciate my Teacher” booklet:

The book contains information on why teachers should be appreciated, objectives of the program, benefits of the program to teachers, guidelines on how to participate in the program and sample appreciation messages.

District and school representatives:

TIG Institute will identify district and school representatives. The representatives will be responsible for recruiting teachers, parents and students to participate in the program activities.

Gifts to teachers and lucky winners:

Teachers, parents and students participating in the program stand chances of winning gifts sponsored by companies that produce goods and services that teachers, parents and students use in schools. Under this program, parents and students will nominate their outstanding teachers for awards. Both the nominee and the nominator stand chances of winning prizes. In return, partnering companies will be promoted among teachers, parents and schools.



Tools for appreciating teachers

The following are some of the tools you can use to appreciate teachers. But note that each school or education institution has its own rules and regulations. You may need to consult the school administration before using these tools to appreciate their teachers.

1. Write a simple “Thank you” note, email or message to your teachers.
2. Post an appreciation message on their social media handles or platforms
3. Purchase a gift for your teacher, e.g. card, book, flowers, diary, calendar, etc.
4. Have the students write a poem about their teacher and place it in a frame or on the wall.
5. Let companies give part of what they produce to schools.
6. Sponsor your teachers’ dinner, ticket to entertainment places and leisure parks, etc.
7. Provide healthy snacks or a cake for the staff room. Be a supportive parent/ student.
8. Do something memorable for your teacher’s birthday.
9. Be an exemplary student. Sometimes this is the best way to say thank you to teachers.
10. Donate money towards teachers’ classrooms. They spend a lot of their own money for classroom supplies. Give them some money to help ease this burden.
11. Tell the headmaster how much you appreciate your teacher. The headmaster evaluates teachers regularly, and this type of positive feedback can factor into the evaluations.
12. Send them a graduation invite. Inviting teachers shows how you appreciate them.



Sample appreciation messages

Teachers spend a lot of time with your child

“Your child’s teacher, especially their elementary teacher, spends a great deal of time with your child. In some cases, teachers spend more time with a child than the parents do. Crazy, right?! Students spend 7-8 hours a day with their elementary classroom. Do you know how many students of mine called me “mom” and I have answered, “What?” It is just second nature that students become part of your “family” and everyday life.

<https://teach.com/what/teachers-change-lives/teacher-appreciation/>

Teacher – student relationships

“Teachers in middle and high school spend a lot of time working with students during their class period and connecting with students outside of school as well, in after school programs, clubs, tutoring, sports and more. Teachers spend a lot of time nurturing and building relationships with students and their families. Student - teacher relationships don’t always end on the last day of school. I am happy to say that I still keep in touch with many of the students I have taught and have become friends with their families.” <https://teach.com/what/teachers-change-lives/teacher-appreciation/>

Teachers are dedicated professionals

“Teachers are dedicated to their students and to education. Teachers will do whatever they have to do to meet the needs of their students. They are your child’s cheerleader, voice and advocate in schools. We think, eat, and breathe new and innovative ways to teach and engage in the best practices to serve all students. Teaching is not a job that ends when the school bell rings. It is a profession that goes home with you. There are countless nights that I have planned lessons in my sleep and in the shower because coming up with great ideas and planning meaningful lessons to engage different kinds of learners is a 24/7 job.” Teachers



Sample appreciation messages continued

Many teachers are not in it for the money

“Let’s get real...teachers do not teach for the big bucks. Teachers teach because they have a passion for teaching and for student success. Teachers go above and beyond what this profession demands, not getting paid a single dollar for overtime or volunteer work. It takes a pretty special person to care about others in that way without asking for anything more in return. Student success is a reward in itself.” Teachers

Teachers teach against all odds

“Teachers teach against all the challenges in education, like lack of funding, budget cuts, large class sizes, little resources, lack of support, poor administration, testing demands, socio- economic challenges, little or no professional development, and the list goes on and on. Teachers teach regarding these challenges and are proactive in finding solutions to these problems. Teachers will be the first to go into their pocket to buy classroom supplies for their students, buy lunch for a student in need, or stay after school to tutor a student who needs help.

Why show gratitude to teachers?

“Teachers have impacted their students in more ways than most understand. Most people have had teachers who have inspired them in some manner to be a better person. So, teachers deserve your praise. You need to say thank you to teachers as often as you can. Teachers love to feel appreciated. It makes them confident, which makes them better. Parents and students can have a hand in this. Take time show your gratitude and say thank you to your teachers and make them feel appreciated”. (<https://www.thoughtco.com/ways-to-say-thank-you-teachers>).



Sample appreciation messages continued

Majority of teachers are not appreciated

“Most teachers do not receive the admiration and respect that they deserve. Many educators work extremely hard, dedicating their lives to educating youth. They do not do it for the paycheck; they do not do it for the praise. Instead, they teach because they want to make a difference. They enjoy putting their stamp on a child whom they believe will grow up and make a significant difference in the world.” (<https://www.thoughtco.com/ways-to-say-thank-you-teachers>).

Appreciating teachers should not be a one day event

“Remember: Appreciating your teacher shouldn’t be limited to a single day or special event. Teachers change lives every day, and it’s important to ensure they know they are appreciated. Teachers’ awards and special events are avenues to do a little something extra to show your gratitude to teachers. But what is important is always to simply say “thank you” and mean it from your heart”. <https://www.fortheloveofteachers.com>.

Dear teacher

“We appreciate every hour you spend away from your own families to work for our kids. We appreciate all the days you stay late, or come in early, and all the nights you miss your favorite shows because you’re grading homework. We appreciate every hour you spend in meetings, planning and discussing and preparing and assessing so that our kids get a better future”. Unknown



Sample appreciation messages continued

Thank you teacher

“For most teachers, the greatest reward for their job is seeing students thrive and succeed. They just want to know that they’ve helped. Thus, one of the most important things students can do for their teachers is say thank you. It is a good practice for students to return to visit their teachers many years later. For these teachers, knowing where their students end up instills in them a sense of accomplishment.” Teacher

Teachers improvise

“Teachers give students paper and writing tools when they forget to bring their own. Teachers keep teaching even when they feel bad. They teach students how to read, do math, and other subjects. Teachers believe in their students and advocate for them”. Unknown

Teachers deserve a lot of appreciation

“We should be showing our appreciation for the work that teachers put in each and every day! We’re always of the mindset that you should acknowledge those who make a positive impact in your lives, and with teachers being with students for almost 8 hours a day, they deserve a lot of appreciation”. PTA Teachers Appreciation Toolkit.



Thank a teacher in your life

Remember teachers not only teach students, but teach all other professionals. That makes teachers pretty important, like a super hero! So give recognition to a teacher super hero in your life, not only once, but every day.

Appeal to parents and students

Dear parents and students, please email us on: info@tiginstitute.com, your messages of appreciating teachers (“Teacher appreciation messages”). You can send a general message to appreciate all teachers or a message to a specific teacher. Please indicate your name, name of teacher and/or school or education institution (optional). Your message should not be more than one hundred (100) words. We will publish the messages in the next issue of “Appreciate My Teacher” publication. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject a message or decide on the messages to publish. Some messages may be edited to be in harmony with the theme of the publication. Thank you!



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