

5th Grade Thank You Notes

For this project, the 5th grade sets up a “thank you notes” station either outside their classroom or in a prominent place in the school, possibly by the front entrance, by the office, or even in multiple locations. Have the station set up for a few weeks (perhaps until the end of the school year if you are close to the end). On Friday of each week, select 3 students to choose two “thank yous” each that they can read at the end of the day on the school intercom system (the aim is to give everyone who wants one a chance to speak). This promotes public appreciation of others and lets students practice their public speaking skills, which also takes courage!

Kindness Concept(s)

Courage, Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- Printed thank-you cards (as shown in lesson or sticky notes or some other notecard)
- Markers, pens, or pencils
- Bulletin board materials, as desired

Empower all 5th graders to monitor the boards throughout the week to ensure only appropriate thank-yous are posted and to remove any that are not kind or appropriate.

For this project, empower students to create the bulletin board where everyone can express gratitude for and kindness toward others. For fun, they may want to create a board themed like Jimmy Fallon’s “[thank you notes](#)” segment that runs on his Friday shows. You might even secure an [audio clip](#) of the music that plays during the segment to play before or while students read their notes on Friday.

The aim is to give everyone in the school an opportunity to say “thank you” to others at the end of the year for making the year memorable and rewarding. Fifth graders may find this especially rewarding if they are moving on to middle school or junior high (which may be in a different building) next year.

Set up at least one bulletin board in a place where 5th graders can monitor it, either outside the classroom or toward the main entrance. You can have more than one board; the goal is to invite as many people as possible to participate. At the end of each week, select three student volunteers to select two “thank-yous” each to read over the school intercom/loudspeaker at the end of the day before final dismissal. This requires coordination with the main office ahead of time, but is a fun way to end the school year.

Print “thank you cards” (shown below) or simply have sticky notes that people can use to write their thank yous. Have each 5th grader post one to model the type of note that should be posted.

Have markers, pens, or pencils available at the board for ease-of-use.

Wrap Up:

When the project is over, have students help take down the board, which helps reinforce responsibility for cleaning up, and discuss the experience of reading on the loudspeaker. You might even have students distribute the thank you notes to those who received them (if specific names were included). Or, they can read through the notes as a class and then throw them away.

Proposed Lesson Outcomes:

Students will:

- Model courage and kindness by posting thank you notes for others to read.
- Practice public speaking.
- Create a fun space for others to express gratitude and kindness.



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AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

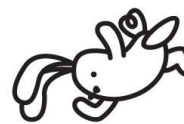
<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>



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