

HOW TO CAPTURE DYNAMIC PHOTOS THAT TELL A STORY

A photograph can tell a story as well as a thousand words—but not many do. Your challenge is to take photographs that truly tell a story and capture the spirit of the event. Well-chosen pictures help make a story come alive and grab the attention of your audience. The photos you take of appreciation day celebrations may be used in your school's newsletter, website, or even in the yearbook. They may also be featured on the school district's website, in a slideshow presentation to the school board, or even in the local newspaper! Your goal is to capture the moments that reflect the heart of the event. Be sure to take pictures of:

- Parties and activities: Capture students and staff enjoying themselves.
- Rewards and recognition: Take photos of awards or notes being given to employees.
- Decorations and details: Highlight the decorations and setups that make the event festive.
- Candid moments: Look for natural interactions between people to capture genuine emotion.

You are helping to recognize and honor the people in your school who go above and beyond to make school a better place for everyone!

This is your opportunity to make a difference by showing the appreciation activities in a dynamic, engaging way.

- **Focus on Interaction, Not Just Posing**
 - Capture moments of action: Instead of static poses, take photos of students and staff interacting—whether it's a handshake, a high-five, a hug, or the act of giving an award.
 - Document moments of gratitude: Show the appreciation exchange or reaction, like a student giving thanks or a staff member's response.
- **Get Close to the Action**
 - Zoom in on important details: The act of giving, hands exchanging notes, and facial expressions during the moment of appreciation.
 - Focus on expressions: Capture genuine smiles, laughter, or emotional reactions.
- **Vary Your Angles**
 - Shoot from different perspectives: Try getting down to eye level with students or shooting from above to create a more dynamic feel.
 - Use creative angles to add variety and interest to your photos.

- **Tell a Story Through Sequence**
 - Capture a series of shots that tell the full story of an event, from preparation to the award presentation to the reaction afterward.
 - Think of your photos as a storyboard: The more complete the story, the more engaging it is.
- **Capture Candid Moments**
 - Look for natural interactions where people aren't aware of the camera.
 - Avoid overly staged photos and aim for authenticity.
- **Play with Lighting**
 - Use natural light whenever possible, and avoid harsh lighting that can make the photos look flat.
 - Avoid window light behind the subjects because it casts a shadow on their faces.
- **Make It Fun!**
 - Encourage students and staff to be themselves: Laugh, move, and interact with each other.
 - Capture group dynamics by showing multiple students and staff members engaged together.

