



The UTRUST APPRECIATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

8 APPRECIATION DAYS

- [Bus Driver Day](#)
- [Custodian Day](#)
- [Superintendent Day](#)
- [Food Service Day](#)
- [Principal Day](#)
- [Special Area Teacher Day](#)
- [Support Staff Day](#)
- [Teacher Day](#)

A FEW TOOLS WE PROVIDE

- Press Releases
- Board Resolutions
- Thank You Letters
- Graphics for web & social media
- Age appropriate packets & tools
- Posters for promoting each appreciation day
- Checklists
- Themes to encourage creativity

[Appreciation Program](#)



OVERVIEW

The Utrust Appreciation Program (UAP) seeks to educate the hearts of students by encouraging them to care about others and to show they care. The expression of appreciation improves morale and lifts the spirits of school employees who desperately need to be reassured that their work is noticed and appreciated. The broader aim of the Utrust Appreciation Program is to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in every student and staff member. The Program ensures that all employees in the school are honored and appreciated for what they do to make their school a better place to work and learn.

APPRECIATION GRANTS

Utrust provides annual \$500 Appreciation Grants to member schools to purchase supplies and materials used by the A-Team.

[Appreciation Grant Info](#)



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BENEFITS OF THE UTRUST APPRECIATION PROGRAM

- **Employees and Students Feel Appreciated.**
 - The UAP model ensures that every person knows he or she matters. When this program was implemented in one county school system, a bus driver said, "I have been driving a school bus for 25 years and this is the first time that anyone has ever taken the time to say thank you."
- **Improves Morale.**
 - The UAP seeks to improve employee morale by respecting what they do and making them feel appreciated.
- **Motivates Employees to Do Their Best.**
 - Employees want to know their work is noticed and appreciated. In Hawkins County, a school custodian said, "I try to do a good job every day but knowing that I am appreciated makes me want to do an even better job."
- **Motivates Students to Do Their Best.**
 - When teachers make the effort to identify specific things they appreciate about a student, the student performs better in school, feels better about him/herself and is more likely to express appreciation to others.
- **Helps Develop Student Leadership.**
 - The UAP provides opportunities for students to lead by carrying out projects and activities that show appreciation to individuals and groups of school employees. Through planning and organizing activities and directing their implementation, students develop valuable leadership skills.
- **Improves Attendance.**
 - People like to go to places where they feel appreciated. The attendance of both students and school employees improves when they are recognized for what they do and when they feel appreciated.
- **Cultivates an Attitude of Gratitude.**
 - Students become aware of the contributions that school employees, individually and collectively, make in helping schools be better places for them to grow and learn. Their attitude of gratitude carries over into their lives at home and in their community.
- **Provides an Opportunity to Develop Skills and Showcase Talents.**
 - Students are given opportunities to showcase artistic talent through the design and production of signs, posters, banners, cards and other creative ways. It gives them a chance to make announcements or short speeches, to sing, act in skits, write poems or jingles and deliver messages of appreciation in creative and dramatic ways. It challenges them to serve as reporters, photographers or videographers to publicize appreciation day activities.
- **Engages the Community in a Positive Manner.**
 - Leaders in every community recognize and appreciate the contribution schools and their employees make but they seldom adequately express that appreciation. Providing opportunities for parents and the community at large to acknowledge their appreciation significantly increases participation in such an effort. Hearing appreciation expressed from parents and community presents a major boost to school employees.
- **Increases Positive Publicity and Public Support for Your School.**
 - Schools and school systems in the Utrust Appreciation Program have found that local newspapers welcome stories about students doing things to recognize and express appreciation to school employees. Positive publicity increases dramatically as a result of this program.

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KEY PLAYERS

SYSTEM LEVEL

- Board of Education
- Superintendent
- System Coordinator

SCHOOL LEVEL

- Principal
- School Coordinator
- A-Team Advisers
- A-Team

System Coordinator

Fosters communication between the superintendent, school board, school coordinators and Utrust.

School Coordinator

Encourages, supports, coordinates and schedules activities associated with the Utrust Appreciation Program.

A-Team

18 students broken up into 3 small groups responsible for planning 8 appreciation days during the school year.



Who Does What?



*“Everyone does a little,
so no one has to do a lot!”*