

# Counselor Lesson Plan

**Honorees:** Custodians

**Theme:** Roaring 20s Era

**Lesson Title:** Building Character Through Appreciation

**Grade Band:** K–5

**Time:** 25–30 minutes

## Lesson Objective

### Students will:

- Understand the importance of clean and safe environments for learning
- Recognize how custodians contribute to health, safety, and pride in the school community
- Reflect on how expressing appreciation builds strong character
- Write a structured appreciation note expressing gratitude clearly and respectfully

## Teaching Moment: Responsibility in the Roaring 20s (5 minutes)

The 1920s were a time when cities and schools were growing quickly. As buildings became larger and busier, people depended on workers who took responsibility for keeping spaces clean, safe, and functioning well.

Just like the workers who cared for buildings during that time, custodians today help make sure our school is a safe and welcoming place to learn.

### Ask students:

- Why is it important for schools to be clean and safe?
- How would your school day change if classrooms and hallways were not cleaned?
- What qualities make someone responsible for taking care of a building?

Explain that responsible people take pride in their work and help others by creating safe environments.

## Understanding the Role of a Custodian (5–7 minutes)

### Discuss together:

#### Custodians:

- Clean classrooms and hallways
- Sanitize surfaces to help prevent illness
- Sweep and mop floors
- Fix broken items
- Maintain safe and organized spaces
- Work before and after students arrive

### Ask:

- What do custodians do that we might not always notice?
- What would our school feel like if no one cleaned the building?
- Why does cleanliness help people learn better?

### Transition:

Custodians show responsibility and pride in their work. When we show appreciation, we show respect for the effort they give every day.

*Custodian Appreciation Day 2027*  
**Roaring 20s Theme**

# Counselor Lesson Plan

## Character Connection: Growing Through Appreciation (3–5 minutes)

### Ask students:

- What kind of person notices when someone works hard?
- Why is it important to appreciate work that happens behind the scenes?
- How does expressing gratitude help you grow as a person?

### Explain:

Appreciation helps us become more thoughtful and aware of the people who help us every day. It strengthens respect and kindness within a community.

## Reflection (3–5 minutes)

### Ask:

- How did it feel to write something thoughtful for someone who works behind the scenes?
- Why is it important to appreciate people whose work we may not always notice?
- How does gratitude help build a stronger school community?

### Close:

Responsible people take pride in their work. Appreciative people recognize that effort. Both are important character traits.

## Counselor Notes

- Keep the Roaring 20s reference brief and simple.
- Focus on responsibility, pride in work, and respect for behind-the-scenes contributions.
- Encourage sincere and specific messages in student notes.

## Writing Activity: Appreciation Notes (12–15 minutes)

### Explain:

A meaningful appreciation note shows that you truly notice someone's effort and the difference they make.

Students should include:

1. Say their name

Dear \_\_\_\_,

2. Say something meaningful

What do you genuinely notice?

- You work very hard.
- I notice how clean our classroom is.
- You help keep our school looking nice.

3. Explain the impact

How do they make a difference?

- You help us stay healthy.
- You make school a nice place to learn.
- You help everyone feel comfortable in our school.

4. Express appreciation clearly

- Thank you for taking care of our school.
- I appreciate your hard work.

5. Sign your name

### Encourage students:

Be specific. Think about something you have noticed that shows their effort.

### Comments custodians would value:

- "You work very hard."
- "Thank you for keeping our school clean."
- "Our school looks great because of you."
- "You help us stay healthy."

*Custodian Appreciation Day 2027*  
**Roaring 20s Theme**