

COUNSELOR LESSON PLAN

Honorees: Special Area Teachers

Theme: 1960s Hippie Era

Lesson Title: Building Character Through Appreciation

Grade Band: K–5

Time: 25–30 minutes

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Understand the importance of creativity, exploration, and learning new skills
- Recognize how special area teachers help students discover talents and interests
- Reflect on how expressing appreciation builds strong character
- Write a structured appreciation note expressing gratitude clearly and respectfully

Teaching Moment: Leadership in the 1950s (5 minutes)

The 1960s were a time when people celebrated creativity, music, art, and self-expression. Many people began exploring new ideas and encouraging others to discover their talents. In schools today, special area teachers help students explore creativity and develop skills that may not always happen in the regular classroom.

Ask students:

- Why is creativity important for learning?
- What new skills have you learned in art, music, PE, library, or technology class?
- How does trying new things help us grow?

Explain that creativity and curiosity help people discover their strengths and build confidence.

Understanding the Role of a Principal (5–7 minutes)

Discuss together:

Special area teachers:

- Teach subjects like art, music, PE, library, or technology
- Help students explore creativity and movement
- Encourage students to try new things
- Help students discover talents and interests
- Build confidence and teamwork

Ask:

- What is something you learned in a special area class?
- How do these classes make school more exciting?
- How do special area teachers help you grow in different ways?

Transition:

Special area teachers encourage creativity and confidence. When we recognize their work, we show appreciation for the many ways they help students grow.

**SPECIAL AREA
TEACHERS DAY
1960S HIPPIE THEME**



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

Ask students:

- What kind of person notices and appreciates someone who helps them learn new things?
- How does appreciation show respect for someone's effort and creativity?
- What kinds of messages would encourage someone who helps students discover their talents?

Explain:

Appreciation helps us become more thoughtful and grateful. Recognizing the people who help us grow builds kindness and respect.

Reflection (3–5 minutes)

Ask:

- Why is creativity important for learning?
- How does appreciation encourage people to keep sharing their talents?
- How does recognizing others help build a positive school community?

Close:

Creative teachers help students discover new abilities. Appreciative students recognize that effort and show respect for the people who help them grow.

Counselor Notes

- Keep the 1960s reference brief and focused on creativity and exploration.
- Emphasize confidence, curiosity, and growth.
- Encourage sincere and specific messages.

Writing Activity: Appreciation Notes (12–15 minutes)

Explain:

A meaningful appreciation note shows that you notice the effort someone makes to help you learn and grow.

Students should include:

1. Say their name

Dear ____,

2. Say something meaningful

What do you notice about their teaching?

- You make learning fun.
- You are encouraging.
- I like how you teach us new skills.

3. Explain the impact

How do they make a difference?

- You help me learn new things.
- You help me feel confident.
- You help students discover what they are good at.

4. Express appreciation clearly

- Thank you for teaching our class.
- I appreciate the creativity you bring to school.

5. Sign your name

Encourage students:

Think about something specific you learned or enjoyed in their class.

Comments special area teachers would value:

- "You make learning fun."
- "You encourage us to try new things."
- "You help me discover new talents."
- "Thank you for teaching us."

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