



COUNSELOR LESSON PLAN

Honorees: Superintendents

Theme: 1930s Hollywood

Lesson Title: Building Character
Through Appreciation

Grade Band: K–5

Time: 25–30 minutes

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Understand the importance of leadership in supporting schools
- Recognize how a superintendent helps guide and support all schools in a district
- Reflect on how expressing appreciation builds strong character
- Write a structured appreciation note expressing gratitude clearly and respectfully

Teaching Moment: Leadership in the 1930s (5 minutes)

The 1930s are often remembered as the “Golden Age of Hollywood,” when movies told stories about courage, leadership, and perseverance. During this time, people looked to leaders who helped guide communities through challenges.

In a school district, the superintendent plays an important leadership role by helping schools work together and supporting the people who teach and care for students.

Ask students:

- What does a good leader do?
- Why do communities need leaders?
- What qualities make someone a strong and responsible leader?

Explain that leaders help others succeed, make thoughtful decisions, and work to improve things for everyone.

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

Discuss together:

The superintendent:

- Oversees all schools in the district
- Supports principals and teachers
- Helps make decisions about safety, learning, and resources
- Works to improve education for all students
- Helps schools work together toward common goals

Ask:

- How might decisions made by district leaders affect your school day?
- What kinds of problems might a superintendent help solve?
- Why is it important for someone to guide and support all schools?

Transition:

Leadership requires responsibility and care for others. When we recognize leaders who support our schools, we show respect and appreciation for their work.

SUPERINTENDENT DAY: 30S HOLLYWOOD THEME





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

Ask students:

- What kind of person recognizes the effort of a leader?
- How does appreciation help us become more respectful and thoughtful?
- What kinds of messages would make a leader feel encouraged?

Explain:

Showing appreciation strengthens character. It teaches us to notice the people who help guide and support our community.

Explain:

Gratitude builds character. It teaches us to notice others, respect responsibility, and speak with sincerity.

Reflection (3–5 minutes)

Ask:

- Why is leadership important in a community?
- How does appreciation encourage leaders to continue doing their best work?
- How does recognizing leaders help build respect and responsibility?

Close:

Strong leaders help communities grow. Appreciative people recognize the effort it takes to guide and support others.

Counselor Notes

- Keep the Hollywood reference brief and focused on leadership themes.
- Emphasize respect for responsibility and leadership roles.
- Encourage thoughtful messages that recognize effort and service.

Writing Activity: Appreciation Notes (12–15 minutes)

Explain:

A meaningful appreciation note shows that you recognize someone's leadership and the difference they make.

Students should include:

1. Say their name

Dear ____,

2. Say something meaningful

What do you notice or appreciate about their leadership?

- You work hard for our schools.
- You care about students.
- You help guide our district.

3. Explain the impact

How do they make a difference?

- You help make our schools better places to learn.
- You support teachers and students.
- Your leadership helps our schools succeed.

4. Express appreciation clearly

- Thank you for leading our district.
- I appreciate the work you do for students.

5. Sign your name

Encourage students:

Think about how leaders help people succeed and write a message that shows respect for their responsibility.

Comments a superintendent would value:

- "You work hard for our schools."
- "Thank you for supporting students."
- "You help make our schools better."
- "We appreciate your leadership."