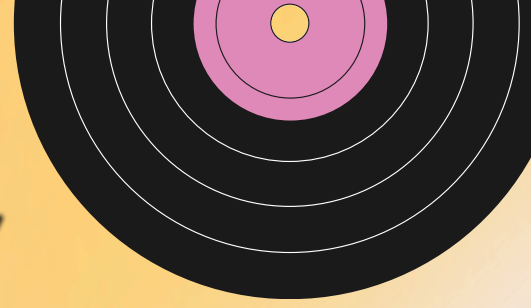


COUNSELOR

Lesson Plan



Honorees: Support Staff

Theme: 1970s Disco Era

Lesson Title: Building Character Through Appreciation

Grade Band: K–5

Time: 25–30 minutes

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Understand the importance of teamwork in helping a school run smoothly
- Recognize how support staff assist students and teachers throughout the day
- Reflect on how expressing appreciation builds strong character
- Write a structured appreciation note expressing gratitude clearly and respectfully

Teaching Moment: Teamwork in the 1970s (5 minutes)

The 1970s were a time when teamwork and community were often emphasized. People gathered together for music, events, and shared experiences, and many things were accomplished through groups working together. Schools work the same way today. It takes many people working together to help students learn and feel supported.

Ask students:

- Why is teamwork important in a school?
- What happens when everyone helps each other?
- What qualities make someone a good team member?

Explain that strong communities depend on people who are willing to help and support others.

Understanding the Role of the Support Staff (5–7 minutes)

Discuss together:

Support staff may include:

Office staff

- Instructional aides or paraprofessionals
- Front office assistants
- Student support helpers

They often:

- Help students during lessons
- Assist teachers with classroom needs
- Answer questions and solve problems
- Help students who need extra support
- Keep the school organized and running smoothly

Ask:

- When has someone in the office or classroom helped you?
- What do support staff do that we might not always notice?
- How does their help make school easier for students?

Transition:

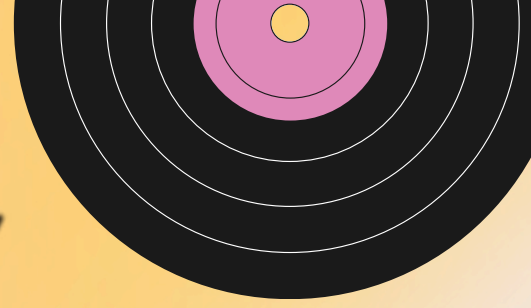
Support staff work together with teachers and administrators to help students succeed. When we recognize their effort, we show respect for the teamwork that makes our school stronger.

70s Disco Theme
SUPPORT STAFF DAY 2027



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Lesson Plan



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

Ask students:

- What kind of person notices when someone helps others?
- Why is it important to appreciate people who support a team?
- What kinds of messages would make a helper feel valued?

Explain:

Appreciation helps us become more aware of the people around us. When we thank people who help others, we strengthen kindness and teamwork.

Writing Activity: Appreciation Notes (12–15 minutes)

Explain:

A meaningful appreciation note shows that you notice someone's effort and the difference their help makes.

Students should include:

1. Say their name

Dear ____,

2. Say something meaningful

What do you notice about their help?

- You are very helpful.
- You are patient with students.
- I appreciate how you support our school.

3. Explain the impact

How do they make a difference?

- You help students when they need assistance.
- You make school easier for everyone.
- You help our school run smoothly.

4. Express appreciation clearly

- Thank you for helping our school.
- I appreciate everything you do.

5. Sign your name

Encourage students:

Think about a time when someone helped you or helped your class.

Comments support staff would value: School Resource Officers (SROs)

- "Thank you for keeping our school safe."
- "I feel safe when you are here."
- "Thanks for watching out for us."
- "Thank you for protecting our school."

School Nurses

- "Thank you for taking care of me when I don't feel well."
- "You help me feel better when I'm sick."
- "Thanks for giving me ice packs and helping me."
- "Thank you for being kind when I get hurt."

Teacher Assistants

- "Thank you for helping me with my work."
- "You help me when I don't understand."
- "Thanks for working with my group."
- "Thank you for helping me do my best."

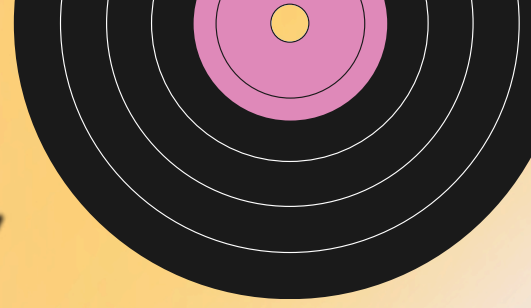
Front Office Staff

- "Thank you for helping me when I come to the office."
- "You are nice when I need help."
- "Thanks for helping me when I feel lost or confused."
- "You always help me when I need something."



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Lesson Plan



Reflection (3–5 minutes)

Ask:

- Why is teamwork important in a school?
- How does appreciation help people feel valued?
- How does recognizing helpers strengthen a community?

Close:

Strong communities are built when people help each other. Appreciative people recognize that effort and show respect for those who support others.

Counselor Notes

- Keep the 1970s reference brief and focused on teamwork and community.
- Emphasize respect for helpers and support roles.
- Encourage sincere and thoughtful messages.

