School awards aren’t limited to end-of-the-year award ceremonies and graduation. Awards can be used throughout the year to encourage and motivate students to succeed. Still not sure what to do? Let us help you. We have a lot of ideas to help you, your students, and your school.
At Anderson’s, we are committed to providing high-quality products and relevant solutions that allow you to inspire pride in your students and staff, honor achievements, and celebrate every student and school milestone. We do whatever it takes to ensure that being part of the Anderson’s family is a wonderful experience for you, now and in the future.

Anderson’s is a multi-channel retailer with over 40 years of experience in providing creative and innovative recognition, school spirit, school fundraising, graduation, and teacher appreciation ideas, as well as prom, party and event favors and decorations for schools and organizations across the United States.

A national leader in providing effective recognition solutions and unique decorations, Anderson’s is dedicated to partnering with educators, advisors and parents who inspire, recognize and celebrate the growth, development and achievements of kids during their early childhood through high school years.

At Anderson’s, you can always expect relevant and timely product and service solutions, so you can continue to provide your kids with everything they need to succeed at every stage of development and learning.
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CHAPTER 1:
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS

Academic Excellence
Don’t wait until the end of the school year to recognize student academic excellence. Recognize all of the little milestones your students achieve during the year like handing in their homework on time or doing well on a test. There are a lot of ways to reward students each week as they face each academic milestone. When students realize that you see the hard work they put in on a daily and weekly basis, they will be more likely to keep up the good work and it will lead to better grades. Don’t forget, academic excellence award ideas can run the gamut from stickers to 5 minutes of free time!

Birthdays
Even though they’re past the “I’m this many” stage, elementary school kids still love birthdays, especially when they hit the double digits. It’s their special day; make them feel extra special on their birthday. At the start of the school year, create a classroom calendar featuring all of your students’ birthdays. When each day arrives, give the birthday boy or girl a crown to wear, a sash, and maybe a gift pack of birthday treats. Of course, gifts don’t have to be the tangible kind. Kids will love it if they got to be a teacher’s helper for the day. Also, don’t forget students who have summer birthdays! On the last day of school make sure those students have their bag of birthday treats, too!
Caught Doing Good/Character

When you see your young students exhibiting a good attitude or making a wise choice, let your student know that **you** see and appreciate the effort they’re making. Be ready with a quick “Thank you” or a small token of gratitude. Whether they stood up to a bully or befriended a new kid in class, positive reinforcements for good decisions goes a long way with little kids. ‘Caught Doing Good’ awards, like certificates, tokens they can redeem for a quarterly prize, or even a hand-written note will boost their confidence so they continue to do their best. On-the-spot awards like these are important for reinforcing positive behavior and good decisions.

Reading

Imagine it: Twenty-first century kids choosing to read instead of watching television or playing video games. Sound too good to be true? It doesn’t have to be. Instilling a love of reading at a young age is easy to do. Organize a school-wide contest to see who can read the most by the end of the quarter, Thanksgiving, or Christmas. Celebrate National Reading Month (March) with a special read-a-thon. Events like these will keep your students motivated, engaged, and excited to read. Add to the excitement with small prizes and awards for a certain amount of books read. Don’t have time to organize a read-a-thon? Encourage students to read more with classroom incentives like bookmarks, pencils, or pens! If you can inspire your kids to read, they will blossom in the classroom. Their grades will improve and so will their confidence.
**Star Student**

Acknowledge elementary students who perform exceptionally well on a test, show improvement on homework assignments, or who offer helpful advice to another student with Star Student awards. Recognition items for achievements like these will go a long way in building a child’s academic confidence; they will push themselves to achieve more when it comes to school work. On-the-spot awards will be cherished, but there are other ways to recognize star students.

One example is a paper clip chain. Hang a paper clip on your white board. Then, each time one of your students has a “star performance” add a paper clip and create a chain. When the chain reaches the floor, reward all of your students with a class activity of their choosing.

Need another great idea? Have your class vote on and select a Student of the Month. An award like that is sure to urge your students to continue to push themselves to succeed.
Academic Excellence

Recognizing and encouraging academic excellence is not only a challenge but extremely important. Without a bit of recognition here and there, middle school students can become discouraged and disengaged with school. Keep plenty of on-the-spot academic excellence rewards around. Whether these awards are simple stickers or trendy dog tags, they’re all a great way to motivate your students to take their success to the next level and stay engaged in the classroom.

Need another fun idea? Create punch cards! Every time your students get a certain percentage correct on their tests or hand in their papers by the deadline, punch their card. When they have a full card, reward their hard work with a chance to pick a prize out of a grab bag.

No matter what ideas you use, rewarding academic milestones will increase your middle school students’ self-confidence and pride in themselves.
Character/Citizenship
As an educator and/or parent, you know all too well the peer pressure and unique challenges your middle school students face every day. (Yes, we saw you cringe.) Character awards are great additions for any middle school educator to have on hand. When you see a student take a stand against the class bully or show maturity in facing peer pressure, make sure that boy or girl knows that they have someone in their corner. They will appreciate the recognition whether it’s a kind word or a small token of thanks.

You can also have awards at the ready when students do well on a character building task, work well as a team, or when they are seen displaying a good attitude. Of course, for middle school students, it’s not all about school. When your students take the lessons and confidence they’ve received in school and apply it at home or in the community, they are taking steps to becoming better citizens. Is there a student in your class or school that is an example of a good citizen in your community? Hand out awards to encourage them to keep up the good work and motivate others to follow their example.

Honor Roll
Middle school may be the first time students have the opportunity to get on the A or B honor roll. That’s a big accomplishment. Your students will be even more proud of themselves, and recognize what a privilege it is to make the Honor Roll, when you acknowledge their dedication and hard work with lots of fun honor roll awards. Whether your awards are stylish or traditional, honor roll recipients will love them; they’ll be inspired to keep up the hard work so they can make the honor roll again (and receive another award!). If you’re a little strapped for award funds, reward honor roll students with a “No Homework Night.”
Leadership
Taking a leadership role in middle school can be little scary for middle school students. There are so many new kids they face and deal with every day; being in charge of their peers may be intimidating. Encourage or motivate your middle school students to build their leadership skills by handing out on-the-spot awards for the times when your students take charge in the classroom or work well with others. Student Council is a natural way for students to get involved and further develop their leadership and teamwork skills. Make sure you have more leadership and Student Council awards for these students. They’re great for encouraging more kids to get involved, and staying engaged with their school.

Perfect Attendance
Awards for Perfect Attendance are a terrific way to keep your middle school students focused—after all, all they have to do is show up! Tracking perfect attendance can be a lot of fun and gets students excited to reap the end rewards. Try handing out tokens or beads for every day a student arrives to class on time; make it a contest between homerooms. At the end of each quarter the homeroom with the most tokens, beads, or points gets an ice cream party, pizza party, or even free tickets to a school dance. Small recognition awards for perfect attendance are like stepping stones to building student self-esteem and student engagement.
CHAPTER 3: HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Academic Excellence
High school students have high expectations set upon them for academic success. From honors classes, college courses, and personal expectations, high school academic goals can be a little overwhelming. No matter what academic level your high school students are at, encouragement and support are still needed. For each milestone they reach, like acing a pop quiz on the periodic table elements or improving their writing skills, be sure to recognize your students’ success with small but meaningful awards. Of course, the best award high school students can receive for their academic excellence is a scholarship. If you give them a few incentives along the way, the road to achieving that goal will be a lot smoother.

Activities and Sports
From Band and Debate to Football and Cheerleading, high school is full of opportunities for students to get involved. Be sure to recognize each and every student that takes an interest in after-school activities. Whether it’s for an outstanding performance, improvement, or for simply participating, recognition awards (e.g., medallions, certificates, a handwritten thank you note) go a long way toward motivating students and self-assuredness. Remember, all of their hard work and perseverance gets your school noticed and pumps up school spirit. When students realize you appreciate their efforts and contribution, the more likely they will feel included, engaged, and connected with their school and fellow students.
**Honor Roll**

Making the high school A and B honor rolls is a big accomplishment. The standards are high; if students meet and exceed those standards and make the honor roll, they deserve to be recognized for it. Have awards on hand to acknowledge those students who have landed a coveted spot on their high school A or B honor roll. Award ideas can range from cool items they can use a lot, like water bottles or T-shirts, to credit for your school store! However you recognize Honor Roll students, it will be a huge validation for your students that they’re on the right track—especially your Seniors who are anxious about their college admittance chances!

**Leadership**

Leadership roles in high school can range from being president of the Student Council, team captain, or club president. High school students in a leadership position have a lot of responsibilities to juggle. You can make their job a little easier and motivate them to develop even stronger leadership skills with thoughtful leadership awards. Rewarding students who are in a leadership role is the perfect way to encourage students to keep doing a fantastic job. Moments of recognition for high school student leaders are the moments they will take with them to college, and remind them to achieve the same success in college and beyond.

**Perfect Attendance**

Perfect attendance awards can be a great motivator for high school students, especially when they act like school is the last place they want to be! Hand out recognition awards for perfect weekly attendance, monthly attendance, or quarterly attendance. These awards are a nice way to give your students a quick burst of pride. They will be more apt to focus and work harder if they know they are appreciated and feel like they belong. Make the awards enticing, like a ‘no homework night or discounted dance or Prom tickets. With awards like those, you will have a lot of students striving for Perfect Attendance awards all year long.
LINKS: