

Building a Positive School Climate

Evidence of an activity that fosters positive relations between faculty/ staff and students:

This year in Teacher Relations, we really wanted to focus on the appreciation aspect of the committee. After discussing with Mr. Nedler, my committee decided we would start a “Teacher of the Week” program, where we’d recognize a different teacher every week and celebrate their hard work. My initial goal was to recognize the teachers that aren’t appreciated as much or are as popular around campus. Certain teachers tend to always be recognized, for obvious reasons, but my committee expressed to me that they wanted to award their favorite teachers that aren’t as well-known. When it comes down to deciding who is going to be the Teacher of the Week, my committee and I look for three components. Firstly, we try to recognize teachers that put forth so much dedication and effort into their classes and students, despite not being openly celebrated as much as other popular teachers. Secondly, we also try to celebrate teachers in departments that are less prevalent in our school’s community (i.e teachers from the Fine Arts Department or the Foreign Languages.) This aspect of the selection process helps to ensure that every teacher is getting the chance to be recognized because all of our faculty here is so incredibly wonderful. Lastly, we survey students outside of our ASU in order to get a broader, more accurate representation of how our students feel about certain teachers. Often times, kids are eager to share their own personal experiences about their favorite teachers and it is a great way to get our entire student body involved. Once a teacher is selected, my committee and I create posters and signs that congratulate them for their amazing contribution to our school and its education. We take photos and then post these pictures on our Instagram @humansofdana, where a large following of Dana Hills students are able to read all about who the Teacher of the Week is and why they are being recognized. It is a creative and fun way for our ASU and student body to give back to our teachers, who give their everything to all of every single day. Seeing the reactions of teachers when they’re surprised and “shouted out” on our Instagram page really shows how a little more kindness and outward examples of appreciation can make a difference.

