



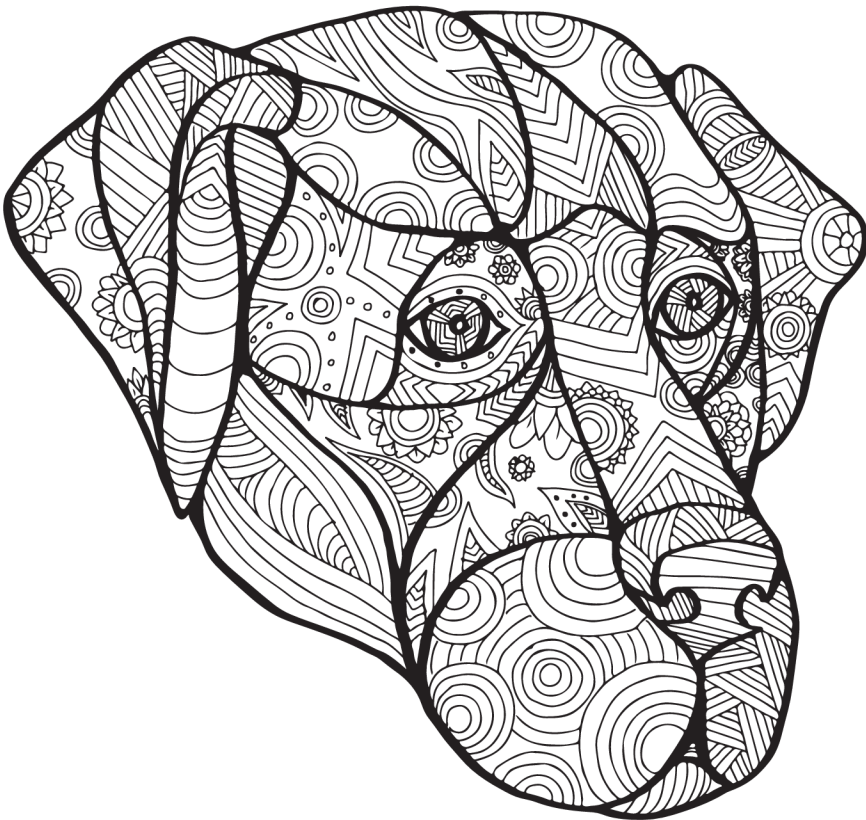
SPRING TIME POWER MOVES

A PK-12 School Leader Guide of Activities to Keep Your
Scholars & Staff Engaged During the Home Stretch of Your
School Year

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NOURISH YOURSELF



Special Message For You

Dear Friend

Let's be honest—spring in schools is beautiful chaos.

State testing is or was in full swing. The sun's finally cooperating. And somehow, your school calendar is both bursting at the seams *and* missing key events you swore were already planned.

Mondays feel foggy. Fridays feel like ghost towns. And in between? You're holding it all together.

As a Head of School, I used to cover classes so often I knew where every kid hid their snacks. It wasn't glamorous. But it was real. And necessary.

I know the feeling. You're stretched thin but still showing up—with vision, patience, and purpose. That's leadership. That's love.

But here's the good news: **this season is also a playground for innovation.**

What if we leaned *into* the absences, the weather, the testing burnout—and turned them into opportunities for joy, engagement, and creativity?

Spring is the perfect time to make school irresistible again.

This guide is packed with ideas to:

- Make Fridays and Mondays *work* for you (not against you)
- Build student-led, project-based experiences post-testing
- Activate parents and community members in *low-lift, high-love* ways
- Reignite staff morale with joyful moments and gratitude rituals

Let's finish this year not just checking boxes—but building memories.

Together, let's *spring into action*.

You've got this!

Craig



Home Stretch Activities

When you are fighting to inspire, coax, and innovate your scholars and students to stay the course and show up for teaching and learning, here are some ideas to tap your biggest resources in the community!



Flip the Script on Fridays & Mondays - Make Attendance Irresistable!

STRATEGIES

Challenge: Fridays and Mondays are hit hard by absences this time of year. But instead of fighting it, what if you leaned into it with creativity and purpose?

Momentum Mondays

Ideas:

- Kick off with school-wide breakfast bars,
- DJ-ed homeroom time,
- student-led TED-style talks,
- Passion Projects Students pitch to staff.

Freedom Fridays

Offer Genius Hour-style blocks (Think Google), where students choose their own projects tied to real-world themes or SEL skills. Use cross-grade or cross-content groupings to spark engagement.

Resource - <https://sites.google.com/view/genius-hour-home-edition/home>

Underground Spirit Week

Teachers often engage in "underground spirit week" activities where they dress up in themed costumes without revealing the theme to students, creating a fun guessing game. The students then try to deduce the theme based on the teachers' outfits.

The Mystery: The key is that the staff members keep the theme a secret from the students until they see the outfits.

The Guessing Game: Students are encouraged to guess the daily theme based on the teachers' costumes.

Fun and Engagement: This activity is a fun way to involve teachers and students in a lighthearted and engaging activity.

Some popular themes include:

- Dress like a student: Teachers dress up as their students, or as a specific grade level, according to a TikTok trend.
- Dress like a character: Teachers can dress up as characters from books, movies, or TV shows, Pinterest.



Community-Centered Project Based Learning

STRATEGIES

Challenge: Once state testing wraps, many schools hit a lull—but this is prime time to go big with PBL (project-based learning) that feels fresh, student-owned, and community-connected.

Neighborhood Change Agents

Have students create proposals for improving a park, crossing guard system, or local mural. Presentations go to city council or a parent jury.

Dream Job Day

Invite caregivers or local businesses to co-lead job-shadow or "career hackathon" mini-days.

Climate Justice Fair

Host outdoor science expos where students build and showcase eco-projects—solar cookers, community garden ideas, upcycled art installations.

Teach the Class" Weeks

Students prepare and co-lead 20-minute lessons on topics of their choice (including social justice, gaming, cooking, or tech).



Community Collabs - Power Moves for Parent & Partner Engagement

STRATEGIES

Challenge: This time of year, engagement with families can wane—but it doesn't have to. Spring is the perfect moment to tap into your village in innovative ways.

Co-Teach Day

Invite parents, caregivers, and community members to guest-facilitate alongside staff for one day (cooking demos, storytelling, music sessions, etc.).

School Spirit Street Teams

Create a Jennifer Hudson style "spirit tunnel" made up of caregivers who help energize drop-off lines, morning greetings, and staff thank-you campaigns.

Pop Up Parent Hours

Invite parents to enjoy outdoor neighborhood walks, mindfulness & yoga sessions, parent affinity spaces or school feedback "graffiti walls."

Real Talk Circles

Host open mic events or restorative-style community circles with themes like "What we wish schools knew about us." Make sure you have snacks and tissues!



Fueling Purpose, Voice & Transition Support for Grades 6-12

Spring hits differently in middle and high school. Here are some student-powered activities that pay major dividends in trust, growth, engagement, and achievement.



Real Talk, Real World

Student Voice & Agency Project

What It Is: A reflective storytelling project where students express growth, identity, or change.

Why It Matters: Empowers self-awareness, validates lived experiences, creates a powerful end-of-year artifact.

How to Pilot It:

- Have students reflect and on an area of their life where they have experienced growth (academic, behavioral, social, etc.).
- Have them storyboard their growth journey - starting from a critical moment in the year and have them identify the milestones and key protagonists and antagonists that played a role in it.
- Have them determine the medium they want to express this story (podcast, slam poem, artistic expression, panel, etc.)
- Have them create invitations to invite their favorite people to join them for the *showcase*. This might be a great time to invite community champions to the session. Make sure you have good food and clear your schedule to be there.



The Comeback Crew

Peer-Led Support for Last Minute Growth

What It Is: Mentorship program for students trying to turn things around in the final weeks.

Why It Matters: Late bloomers need support - not shame-to re-engage.

How to Pilot It:

- Match "Comeback Crew" student mentors with mentees.
- Use weekly check-ins, journals, and goal sheets.
- Challenge staff members who work with "Comeback Crew Members" to check-in, offer positive commendations, and leave positive notes that inspire resilience and tenacity.
- Celebrate small wins with 20-30 minute blocks of game time with a staff member, lunch, and/or public praise.



We C U Campaign

Welcolme Campaign for Incoming Or Rising Students

What It Is: Student-led celebration and support campaign for incoming or rising students.

Why It Matters: Eases transitions, builds confidence, and fosters connection.

How to Pilot It:

- Have staff members record students offering welcome and excitement for new students coming to your community.
- Set Up Student Pen Pals/Mentorship Opportunities
- Create a Student-Powered Landing Page, Social Media Carousel, Podcast, etc. that highlights "this is our #SchoolNameWay of being, our ethos" in the community. Students can highlight tips, insights, and lessons learned.
- Students can offer new or rising students advice on "Things I wish I knew when I started..."
- Have students do a social media takeover in the Spring - If anyone knows what may be a draw for new students coming to your community, it would be your students. Let them shine!



Power & Wellness Zones

Student Wellness Centers/Stations

What It Is: Self-regulated wellness corners stocked with journaling prompts, calm music, fidgets, affirmations, grounding activities, and breathing guides - created by students for students..

Why It Matters: It provides students with strategies, tools, and a space to engage in mindfulness, harm reduction, grounding, and/or reflection.

How to Pilot It:

- Form a student wellness team to design the space(s).
- Keep it low lift: bins in classrooms, a traveling cart, or a repurposed nook.
- Include QR codes for mindfulness videos or affirmations voiced by students.
- Have students create some of the wellness posters.
- Resources
 - [Ivy Child International](#)
 - [Labyrinths](#)
 - [UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools](#)



Staff Versus Students: Joyful Competitions & Connection Challenges

Here we have staff and student activities categorized by grade bands (early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school) with an emphasis on positive culture-building, fun, and relationship-strengthening.



Early Childhood & Primary - Grades PK-2

Staff vs. Student “Freeze Frame” Dance-Off

- Use viral songs like “Baby Shark Remix,” “Encanto” hits, or Afrobeat favorites
- One round a day during transitions or dismissal
- Kids “vote” by pointing, clapping, or emoji signs

“Whose Voice Was That?” Storytime Guessing Game

- Staff record audio clips reading books in accents or characters (Mufasa, Elsa, Spiderman)
- Students guess the staff member
- Winners get classroom “VIP reader” time

T-Shirt Design Showdown

- Staff and students submit spring designs with themes like joy, pride, kindness
- Turn into a bulletin board, mini fashion walk, or family voting display
- Free prizes: stickers, pencils, a “T-shirt pass” day



Elementary (Grades 3-5)

1. Staff vs. Students Trivia Showdown

- Students create trivia questions on classroom content, pop culture, and school facts
- Use Kahoot or a Jeopardy-style board
- Staff try to answer student-made questions—and vice versa!

2. Minute-to-Win-It Games

- Set up short, silly challenges: cup stacking, marshmallow toss, hula hoop spin
- Each round is staff vs. students—tally points across the week

3. “Walk This Way” Parade

- Staff and students create silly walks or mini-choreography and “compete” in a runway show
- Student panel judges with fun awards like “Most Original” or “Best Slow-Mo Walk”

4. Cardboard Arcade

- Have students collect cardboard and create your favorite games like pinball, plinko, skeeball, etc.
- Invite other classes to engage in some competition
 - Resource: [Youtube](#)



Middle School

Staff vs. Student Meme Battle

- Staff and students create school-appropriate memes about springtime, tests, or classroom life
- Use Google Slides, Padlet, or poster paper
- Let the school vote via QR code or sticky dot voting

“Drip Check Fridays”

- Friendly style showdowns with themed fits:
 - Cultural pride day
 - Throwback day
 - Futuristic fit day
- Students judge staff... and vice versa!

60-Second Positivity Roast

- In circle or advisory: staff and students “roast” each other with love
- Example: “You’re so smart, even your Wi-Fi asks for your help.”
- Builds trust and laughter while releasing tension



High School

Flip the Script" Film Festival

- **Concept:** Students write, direct, and star in short films—but the teachers act in them!
- **Themes:** School life parodies, TikTok-style skits, feel-good drama.
- **Premiere:** Host a red carpet-style viewing party, with popcorn, mocktail toasts, and a "Golden Backpack" awards ceremony (Best Actor, Best Director, etc.).
- **Collab:** Can double as a media/arts project or cross-disciplinary assignment.

Mission: Grad-possible – The Ultimate Puzzle Chase

- **Concept:** A hybrid escape-room-meets-scamper-hunt across the school.
- **Format:** Students + teachers are grouped into mixed teams to solve a series of academic, pop culture, or school-based riddles.
- **Goal:** Unlock a "graduation vault" or final prize.
- **Bonus:** You can theme it by season, like "Winter Survival Challenge" or "Spring Spirit Sprint."

Lip Sync Battle Royale: Generations Edition

- **Concept:** Teams of staff vs. students perform iconic songs from different eras (70s, 80s, 90s, 2000s, TikTok hits).
- **Twist:** Each team must perform outside their generational comfort zone. Teachers tackle Ice Spice. Students take on Prince.
- **Vibe:** Big energy, wigs, air guitars, and light choreography. Judged by a student-staff panel for creativity, commitment, and crowd reaction.

Any Age Level

“Tiny Desk Takeover”

- Inspired by NPR’s Tiny Desk Concerts
- Staff and students perform music, poetry, or freestyle sets
- Set up a mic and speaker in the cafeteria, courtyard, or online
- Highlight different cultural backgrounds: hip hop, spoken word, R&B, Latin pop, etc.

“This or That: Student vs. Staff Edition”

- Instagram or hallway polls:
- “Jordan 1s or Crocs?”
- “Beyoncé or Bad Bunny?”
- “Old School Rap or Drill?”
- Students vote and chart how much they align with staff

“Glow-Up Challenge” – Comeback Season for Late Bloomers

- Students nominate peers who’ve made a major turnaround this year
- Staff join in with their own stories of growth or past setbacks
- Celebrate resilience, not just grades—spotlight students who made it work late but loud

“Spring Showdown Board”

- Hallway poster or whiteboard tracking staff vs. student wins each week
 - Events can include:
 - Attendance streaks
 - Kindness challenges

“The Great Affirmation Exchange”

- Student & staff pairs exchange anonymous compliment cards
- Create a “Wall of Words” or hallway poetry slam of love

Community Vibes Day

- Staff vs. students community service: who can donate more canned goods, volunteer hours, or kind deeds?
- Add music, energy, and signs with local pride

About THE CREATOR

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leadership, cultures of belonging, change management, and equity. His work extends beyond pre-K through 12 education to include partnerships with Fortune 500 companies and other organizations, driving transformative change through culture, inclusion, and belonging.



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