

# **Teacher Appreciation Week Survey Responses**

## **Why do you feel teachers are an important part of a child's life?**

- “We are with the kids all day and are sometimes the only positive thing they have. We have the ability to be a good role model and support person in their lives. They become like family while we have them and hopefully, we can continue to support them as they get older!”
- “Teachers are with the students for a majority of their day. They can form bonds with them and be that “one special person” that a child needs in their life. Teachers can be good role models and a positive influence on the next generation.”
- “Teachers can have a huge, positive influence on their students and help to shape their trajectories--especially in ways that affect their emotions, self-esteem, academics/grades, citizenship, independence, character, and career choices.”
- “Our job is to help children succeed. A good teacher comes to school with the goal to help students grow not just academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Students' sense of self-worth can grow from a good teacher!”
- “Students spend the majority of their day at school- as a teacher, we have the unique opportunity to make an imprint on the child's life by trying to help them learn and grow every day.”
- “We spend more time without students than our own kids sometimes and we are not only teachers, but counselors, therapists, nurses, mentors, and so much more. We wear a lot of hats!”
- “Education is key vehicle that brings knowledge to a child's life. Knowledge gives them the ability to mold their lives into what they want them to be.”
- “We are the only other adults that they can look up to for inspiration or guidance. We lead by example and can be a safe place for our students.”
- “Teachers spend more of their day with their teachers than their parents during the school day. It is important to be a positive role model.”
- “Teachers set the foundation for students as they learn and grow. They are also some of the only consistent people in children's lives.”
- “They are helping the children learn to problem-solve, learn the foundational academic and life skills they will need for a lifetime”
- “Aside from teaching them subject material, a teacher is able to be a positive role model/influence in a student's life.”
- “Teachers provide students with opportunities to develop curiosity and creativity when investigating the unknown.”
- “They are a consistent person that students can depend on, hopefully relate to, and serve as a role model.”
- “Positive role models that the student may never see otherwise.”
- “They can guide, mentor, and serve as positive role models.”
- “We build students' foundation of character and education.”
- “We spend all day with them!”
- “Because fewer adults are.”

## **What is the biggest reward a teacher could receive?**

- “I love when previous students come back to say Thank you or share stories of things they remember about my class. Because I teach Preschool some students don't even remember me, so to know that I'm remembered or that something I did in a child's life had an impact is a great reward.”
- “The kids coming back when they are older and remembering something we did in class! I also want them to remember how to treat others like we have practiced all year! If they become good people, I hope I had a part in that!”
- “To me, the biggest reward is knowing that I honestly, truly made a difference in a student's life; that I challenged their abilities and perspectives, that I helped them to see the world differently.”
- “The biggest reward is knowing that I have done something, and each child has grown and learned something through my instruction.”
- “The biggest reward is to hear a student tell us how we helped them learn or how we made a difference in their lives!”
- “When a student comes back to visit and tells you everything they loved or learned about/in your class.”
- “Students who report back when they are adults and say the teacher made a positive difference for them.”
- “When a student says, "Thank you for helping me. I didn't appreciate it then, but now I do.”
- “Being remembered by a student years later for making a positive difference in their life.”
- “The biggest reward for me would be that I made a positive difference in a student's life.”
- “Seeing a student become excited about the material and take an active role in learning.”
- “A thank you note/ compliment from a student, teacher, parent, administrator.”
- “The knowledge that he or she has positively impacted the life of another.”
- “Seeing my students proud of their accomplishments is my greatest reward.”
- “Knowing that we made a positive impact on a student's life.”
- “A thank you, since an IPA is probably out of the question.”
- “That we had a positive impact on that student's life!”
- “Kind words from the students and their families”
- “A student's gratitude or a genuine compliment”
- “Genuine appreciation from a student.”
- “The ‘I get it’ look”

## **What would you say to students who may want to go into the education field after high school?**

- “I would tell them "congrats!" I'll be there for them if they need anything! I'll offer support even when they are older! I would also tell them to read "The First Six Weeks" to help get them started when they have their own classroom! I would

also remind them that the education field is different than it used to be. When I graduated college in 93, you had to work your tail off to get into a school and sub. The world sees teachers and education so differently too. There is a lot of negativities written about us and hopefully they can ignore all that and be the amazing teacher they were meant to be!"

- "Become a teacher because you are called into the profession. Don't let teaching be your backup plan. Teaching is more than liking the content. Most students are not going to be nearly as interested or as passionate about your content as you are. Teaching is an opportunity to change a student's life, to make a difference, to challenge them and help them become who they want to be. What an amazing opportunity it is to be a teacher."
- "Teaching is very enjoyable because you get to work with kids. Though we're often following routines in the classroom, every day is different. So, the job is full of variety. While it has its benefits and rewards, I would encourage you to find another profession because there is too much take-home work in this profession, and it can interfere with your family time."
- "Do it! We need quality teachers in the field and even though it's a hard profession that doesn't always get enough recognition, the benefits of teaching outweigh the struggles. There are hard days but there are also amazing days and great colleagues and a lot of laughter and fun."
- "Make sure you are doing it because you want to make a difference in the lives of youth. If you join this profession for the pay, the benefits or the summers off, you won't ever feel fulfilled."
- "Realize you're born for this! it's a really stressful, tough job but it's worth it in the end! if you feel a calling toward education- listen to it. I believe educators are called to the field"
- "It's hard. Really hard. You don't get paid for the amount of work you put in every day, even in the summer. Selfless people are teachers, so do it for the kids, not the money."
- "Make sure it's something you're passionate about and your heart is set on- otherwise, it will be a long road. But the road is definitely one worth taking!"
- "PLEASE DO! We need more dedicated, passionate teachers. However, if this isn't your calling, please consider another field."
- "If you want a career that is rewarding, then you should be a teacher. It takes a special person with a giant heart!"
- "Know that 90% of being a teacher has nothing to do with teaching. If you can accept that, you will thrive."
- "Talk to a variety of teachers and truly get a vision of what it's like to be in education today."
- "Be sure that you have observed several days in the classroom. Teaching is a calling."
- "It is a very rewarding job, but it also includes a great deal of stressors."
- "We need great teachers! If this is your calling, welcome to teaching!"
- "Can you offer kids anything that Chat-GPT can't? If so, go for it."
- "It is one of the hardest but most rewarding jobs!"
- "It is a rewarding but challenging career."

- “I would ask them if they like to learn.”
- “Make sure you have a passion for it”

## **What is your favorite thing about being a teacher?**

- “Maybe there's something wrong with the electrical wiring in my room. Maybe the wiring in my head is bad, but I've never seen lightbulbs go off in kids' heads. Maybe they go off, but the wattage is too low, or maybe I'm looking at the blackboard when it happens. Paranormal evidence of lightbulbs doesn't matter anyway. My favorite thing about teaching is hard evidence of slow, methodical, measurable student growth. You don't become a musician, athlete, artist, engineer, or communicator in the flash of a lightbulb, but you can become better at most things from August to June.”
- “I love children and I want to make a difference. I love to see the growth and excitement in children as I am teaching them something new! When students are happy to come to school and learn, I know that I am doing something right and it makes my heart happy. I hope to have an impact on every student that I teach!”
- “I have the unique opportunity to work with the same students from 9th-12th grade. My favorite thing is watching them enter the classroom as freshman and grow and mature into young adults. I love watching them figure out who they are and come up with a plan for their future.”
- “Seeing the smiling faces every day! The kids are happy to come to school which is what I hope from them. I want them to love school and love being in our class!”
- “I get the opportunity to try to make a difference in the lives of my students every day. Sure, it sounds kitschy and cliché, but it's the truth.”
- “I love the students. Tyrone students are just awesome; I can't think of a single day that hasn't been made brighter by my students.”
- “The moments when students grow as people, when they appreciate a different perspective, or understand something for the first time.”
- “The relationships that I build with students. Also, having summers off is one of the best things about teacher life.”
- “Watching my students learn, become great members of society, and laughing with them.”
- “I like seeing my students grow and having "ah-ha"/lightbulb moments when learning.”
- “I enjoy making positive connections with students and sharing my love of learning.”
- “Watching lightbulbs come on when students understand something for the first time”
- “The absolute brutal honesty and fresh perspective that my students give.”
- “Seeing each student grow into a productive, kind, hardworking citizen.”
- “The feeling that my time is well spent, and I am making a difference.”
- “Making true connections with my students and seeing them succeed.”
- “Connecting with the kids and having a fun relationship.”
- “Interacting with my students and watching them grow.”
- “Seeing when students want to learn on their own.”

- “Making connections with the students”
- “The relationships with my students.”
- “Summers off!”

## **What are your biggest worries as a teacher?**

- “I worry about bridges. Our tech-crazy culture expects less and less of both high school and college students. Teachers dutifully supply students, online and via Canvas, with every technological resource and option imaginable to succeed, even offering cyber alternatives to their courses. Colleges, knowing that incoming students lack resourcefulness and expect limitless options, have lowered their bars for success to the point that kids are given class materials and notes on Canvas, to the degree that class attendance optional. I worry that I may not fully realize the detriment that this degradation of standards has caused until I'm driving over a 500-foot-high suspension bridge engineered by a grad from a school that approved every downloaded-for-profit term paper and Chat-GPT-generated project he submitted over last 8 years.”
- “Students' home lives are getting worse, so kids do not have the supports/role models they need around them to optimize their potential. I also have concerns about students' mental health and their connections with others given this era of social media relationships.”
- “I worry that I'm ineffective as a teacher, that what I'm doing isn't helping the students grow in their knowledge and understanding. I worry that I'm not doing enough, that I'm not challenging them in the right ways. I worry that I'm not making a difference.”
- “My biggest worry is that I can't control what happens outside the walls of the school. I worry if students ate dinner, are home alone too often, have clean clothes, have a warm bed, etc.”
- “I worry most about my students' wellbeing. We know they are safe and taken care of while here at school with us, but I worry about things they are facing outside of the school day.”
- “One of my biggest worries is the well-being of my students. There is such an overwhelming need, and teachers and counselors are spread too thin.”
- “We worry about what environment our students are going home to each night. We also worry about the results of standardized tests.”
- “Students will not mature and will continue to miss the bare minimum instead of succeeding to their fullest potential.”
- “Being able to reach every student...especially in larger classes where the teacher to student ratio is not ideal.”
- “I always wonder if I am doing enough. What if I miss something? What is life like when my students go home?”
- “School shootings and keeping everyone safe. Kids who go home without essential needs being met.”
- “What happens to my students outside of school and what is happening to education as a whole.”

- “Being a failure to students and let them down by not preparing them for success”
- “That my students won't be prepared for the real world.”
- “That I wasn't able to give each student enough help”
- “What happens to these students after high school?”
- “School shootings and failing my students.”
- “I worry about my students' well being.”
- “Whether I am reaching every student.”
- “Death of a student/active shooter”
- “That my students don't feel safe”

## **What are the struggles that teachers face on a daily basis?**

- “Younger teachers especially face financial struggles. If you can pursue part-time work or pick up some extracurricular gigs, those struggles are more manageable. On top of this, the pensions for new teachers are far less lucrative than they once were. Not surprisingly, whereas a TAHS English teacher job opening once attracted 10 or 15 highly qualified English majors, now we are lucky to attract 2 or 3. Many of America's brightest minds are going into more profitable fields.”
- “I struggle with time every single day. I never have enough of it. Time to plan, to revise lessons, to reflect on what went well and what didn't, to correct assignments and update the gradebook, to manage the cyber courses, to answer emails from students and parents, to complete my portfolio and SLO, to prepare for the next day. Time to breathe, decompress and be...me.”
- “The schedule can be intense. Sometimes I feel like a hamster on a wheel! There are weeks that feel manageable, but there are others when I find it difficult to achieve balance between school and home.”
- “I'd say the two biggest struggles are 1. lack of planning time to adequately differentiate and plan for the needs of each student due to coverage 2. communication isn't always clear or in advance.”
- “Trying to balance all of the demands: helping students with their academics and social/ emotional needs, paperwork, emails, meetings, covering classes, lessons plans, etc.”
- “Teachers have too many coals in the fire. It is almost impossible to complete all of the necessary tasks and requirements well in the time provided.”
- “The amount of support the kids need today compared to many years ago is so much more. We don't have enough adults to support the amount we need.”
- “Making sure every child is getting their needs met to the greatest of my abilities. TIME - there is never enough to do everything I want to!”
- “Adjusting to student moods, home lives, outside events that affect students and trying to help them get through it positively.”
- “Disrespectful students and students who either don't care or who are just survive their current situations”
- “Time for planning - Student behavior - Too many meetings and other expectations outside of teaching”

- “Creating meaningful lessons which engage students and achieve the objectives in a enriching way”
- “Student's learned helplessness and overall classroom behaviors getting in the way of learning.”
- “Large class size, no time for planning or prep, having to cover other classes”
- “Keeping up with and meeting students" needs, whether academic or personal.”
- “90% of our job is not teaching; 90% of the time we are behavior managers.”
- “Having enough time to accomplish everything & feeling under appreciated.”
- “Aligning instruction to the standards and yet making learning engaging.”
- “Getting students to care about school and maintaining student focus”
- “Unrealistic expectations, so many expectations and so little time”
- “Not enough time to get all of the many job requirements done.”
- “Teaching all levels of learners, emotions, and backgrounds.”

### **Explain how a T ASD teacher (or teachers) have impacted your life in a positive way.**

- “I would like to thank Ms. Beigle for helping me elevate my writing to a new level. She was very particular with her criteria when it came to writing essays and research papers, which gave me a whole new outlook on writing. I am very unmotivated to write, but her pushes have helped me to do my best to succeed. I've learned a lot thanks to her. Her efforts overall worked well for the DE English class. It was a very fun year all things considered,” said senior Kenneth Sorokie.
- “David Hock, he helped me figure out the person I am. The band has always been a second home and he has always been a caring father towards me and all the students, some call him father instead of hock sometimes. He believes in his students, and we can relate to him for many personal reasons. He has been one of the main reasons why I always came back to Tyrone to play in the band. This band makes me feel at home and Hock is one of the main components of that. Giving funny dad jokes and random dance transitions just for the fun of it. It can brighten anyone's day,” said senior Xena Sieminski.
- “Mrs. Taylor: she's always willing to accommodate me and my learning issues, she's been such an inspiration to me and pursuing my medical career,” said sophomore Lola Brown.
- “I would like to thank Mr. Funicelli for being a great influence. He has made the subject of science fun. Chemistry has been challenging, but at the same time, he has made it a worthwhile experience. They say the teacher makes the class, and I believe that to be true. I am simply grateful that he hasn't killed my passion to pursue a major in the sciences, such as Biology,” said senior Kenneth Sorokie.
- “They are just always so supportive in my dreams and push me to reach them, they always tell me what we need to hear in order to succeed. Most of my teachers help me strive to be the best I can be and that has impacted my life because I am a straight A student in all Honors and without the help of a teacher I probably wouldn't be here because I wouldn't have motivation but they give that to me,” said freshman Hailey Lowery.

- “Mr. Hock: he’s so understanding of our needs and helps us in any way he can when we need help. He’s very supportive of us as band kids and is like another uncle to us. He’s a very dedicated man and almost literally lives at the school. He’s a jokester when he wants to be and seems to always have a way to bring a light into our worst days and put a smile on our faces,” said sophomore Lola Brown.
- “The teachers here feel like more than just teachers, they feel like people you can talk to,” said junior Clayton Riggleman.
- “I would like to thank Mrs. Marasco for quite possibly being the best math teacher ever! All the help she has provided me with for the many years she has had me as a student is something that I will always be grateful for, as without the guidance... I don’t think I would be in as good of shape in regards to understanding (and passing) math concepts,” said senior Kenneth Sorokie.
- “I could name so many teachers but will focus on two who really stand out: Mr. Funicelli and Miss Beigle. Mr. Funicelli made chemistry so fun and accessible to his students—I learned so much from him! I also wouldn’t be in my career today without him; I am now a chemistry teacher at a local high school and aim to keep my kids as excited about science as he did. Miss Beigle taught me so much about writing, of course, but also life in general. Every time I use a semicolon, I think of how passionate she was about proper semicolon usage, and it brings a smile to my face. She also made sure every student in her classroom feels valued and cared for. I hope I can be even half the teacher that these two are for my students,” said Grace (McKernan) Onkst, Class of 2015.
- “I always have one teacher in my corner to help me out, support me, and just be there when I need it. I had one teacher in 4th grade, and he helped me out all through middle school, then in 9th grade I found 2 teachers that were always doing their best to help me in every way I needed it. As I’m in 10th grade now and cyber but in the building my teacher now is another one of those teachers who have just really always helped me whenever I needed it. As well as all the stories and laughs we have a great time,” said sophomore Tara Nicodemus.
- “Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Cammarata both made my day better every time I walked into their class. They both are nice and supportive teachers who don’t let anyone get pushed around, they both have incredible senses of humor and are excellent at brightening people’s days,” said sophomore Chase Carothers.
- “Mr. Everhart has really inspired me to continue to write stories and my poems and has made me feel like my stories/poems are worth it and not just something useless that I wrote,” said junior Gabe Leeper.
- “Mrs. McCreary has really inspired me to be myself and not care what others think about me. When I make art, she makes me feel good about what I created. She is such an amazing teacher and I thank her for that!!!” said junior Gabe Leeper.
- “Although many Tyrone teachers have impacted my life, none quite compare to the impact Mr. Holmes has had. Not only does he care about his students from an academic standpoint, but from a personal standpoint as well. Even if someone answers a question incorrectly in his class, he takes the time to listen to their



rationale, and he always made me feel cared for and intelligent,” said junior Alysa Wheland.

- “Another teacher that has had a positive impact is Mrs. Marasco. She is very kind and caring and will always take time out of her busy day to help students with everything from math to personal problems. She always has a contagious smile on her face, and she has helped me find a love for math,” said junior Alysa Wheland.
- “Mrs. Hollen was my chemistry teacher and she always told me I could do it if I believed in myself,” said Karen Rodgers Rumberger, Class of 1971.
- “They make me feel welcomed and safe, especially Ms. Budny,” said freshman Cadence Ball.
- “The LS support teachers, Mr. McNitt, and Mrs. McCreary are all teachers I think have made a great impact on my life. They have all helped me with my work and even emotional issues even when they don’t have to,” said senior Ethan Resuta.
- “Mrs. Toto has been there if I needed to talk or if you just needed a hug. She is the best teacher I had. I still go down to see her every day,” said freshman Hailey Shultz.
- “They have always looked out for me when I was struggling with school and my mental health. Some of my teachers would ask me if I’m okay and if I need to talk! One thing I will always admire about Tyrone is the teachers. They are always there for you whether you ask them to be or not,” said senior Piper Christine.
- “Mr. Holmes is one of the best teachers I’ve ever had. He’s probably one of the only teachers I’ve met that actually gives you their full, undivided attention as long as you give him yours in return. He helps you with any question you may have and will sit by your side until you understand what it is you are asking. Besides all of the great things he does in teaching his students, his work at the Jaffa shrine is incredible. Mr. Holmes’s voluntary work with helping children at Shriners Hospital is an inspiration to me and many others. He never fails to make me laugh every day,” said sophomore Christian Daniel.
- “Mrs. Redinger has helped me with my work when I was out for a week,” said freshman Kaliana Witherite.
- “They always listen to what students have to say,” said freshman Jenna Watson.
- “Mrs. Cannistraci has helped me with things I have struggled with, and she believed in me when I decided to try doing something with honors work and let me try it,” said sophomore Duncan Bennett.
- “Many Tyrone teachers have positively impacted my life and future. They are very encouraging which helps a lot with academic growth. Many teachers have created a calm and great environment to learn and socialize with our peers and I’ll be forever grateful,” said senior MacKenzie Hyde.
- “Mrs. Cann always does her best to brighten not only my day but all of her students with a good attitude and a smile no matter what,” said sophomore Mariyah Hunter.
- “Mr. Hock has impacted my life in so many ways. I’ve been in band since 5th grade, and it has helped me so much. Being in band has helped me become more confident, step out of my comfort zone, and discover my passion for music.

I owe all of this to Mr. Hock. He is so funny and encourages me every single day,” said sophomore Emma Witkamp.

- “Our teachers at Tyrone are just different; they always put your needs first and really care about how you do in school. They really want you to succeed and it shows by how much effort they put into you learning,” said freshman Grace Naylor.
- “Mrs. Grieco has been my reading teacher for the last two years, and she always makes reading really fun. I love going to her class because she lets us use a microphone when we read aloud. She listens to us and helps us when we get stuck on a word. We laugh and have fun while we learn. She sings her "Read to Succeed" song to us. I will remember that song forever! I never want to leave her room. I wish I could have her as my teacher every year. She sure has helped me become excited to read,” said Izzy Grieco.
- “They push us to do our best,” said freshman Hermiane Yeager.
- “Mr. Wilson, 9th grade Earth & Space Science teacher, let me sit in the lab for as long as I needed. The reason why was because I had a bad anxiety attack and couldn't get it under control. His act of kindness that day and his way of teaching have influenced me greatly. I'm so grateful that he let me sit away from the class that period. He has inspired me to go into a job within the Earth or Space science field,” said freshman Addison Warren.
- “The teachers were always there for you no matter what! They were always proud of what you did! I sure miss a lot of the teachers that I had when I was in school!!” said Danielle Heichel, Class of 2020.
- “All of the 12th grade teachers have honestly become family. Mrs. Beigle, Mr. McNitt, Mrs. Marasco, Mr. Funicelli, Mrs. Harris, and Mr. Aharrah have guided me and my classmates through our last year of school! They have had a smile on their faces each day and they never cease to make us joyful. I'm genuinely so grateful for all of their kindness and guidance!” said senior Marley Grazier.
- “Mrs. Harris and Mr. Homes because they have helped me throughout the year and made me who I am. They have made me happier with things I love to do!” said sophomore Alexis Boozer.
- “Ms. Elizabeth Ditty has gone way above and beyond as a kindergarten teacher! We moved back to Tyrone back in October due to a huge loss from a hurricane and to start over! My husband, Brent Shawley is an alumnus of TAHS! I have 5 kiddos in the school system! We have loved all the teachers thus far! However, Ms. Ditty has stood out! Ms. Ditty has my son, Hudson Shawley in her class! Hudson loves school and is thriving all thanks to her! From the time he started there till now, she has encouraged him, helped him talk through things on the hard days, and has helped in making huge strides in his learning! Coming to a new school, meeting new people, and a new teacher is tough for younger ones sometimes! I must say she has put a smile on Hudson's face every day! She makes learning so much fun! She has always kept me up to date on Hudson's progress in learning and socially! She loves those kids more than anything! She goes above and beyond the call of a teacher! We are so thankful she has been part of Hudson's early school years! She will always have a special place in Hudson's heart!” said Andrea and Brent Shawley (Class of 1998).

- “Mrs. Baker has impacted my life in a positive way by making me feel accepted. She understands that I struggle with math a little bit, and she stops what she's doing to help and encourages me to learn. She brightens up my day when I walk into her classroom, she makes me feel seen and heard, and I will forever appreciate her for that!” said junior Fabria Brower.
- “Mrs. Harris has been like a second mom to me. She always has helped me and supported me throughout middle and high school. She has always helped me through tough times, and she is very sweet,” said sophomore Rosie McKernan.
- “Mrs. Harris, she is one of my favorite teachers because she is always there for me when I need her. She is understanding about things. She is patient with me no matter how much of a pain I can be. I'm glad to be one of her students in her final years,” said sophomore Gayge Miller.