

Birthday Celebration Ideas 2020-2021

Non-food Ideas for Birthday Celebrations at School

Every child likes to feel special on their birthday. Celebrating birthdays with classmates are important to some students. When parents send in a food item to celebrate their child's birthday, students with medical conditions (such as a food allergy, diabetes or dietary restrictions) may become excluded. In addition to these concerns, we need to be especially careful this school year due to the risk of COVID-19. The PA DOH requests no food items are used for birthday or holiday celebrations within a classroom during 2020-2021 school year. To further provide safety measures, we ask that nothing be sent to school from home for distribution.

However, we would like to "celebrate and honor your child" on their birthday. Due to the change from past practices, some teachers may already have alternative plans in place to highlight your child's special day. Please contact your child's teacher in advance to discuss options. Below are suggestions that may be used in a way we can keep everyone safe.

1. Have the teacher ask each child to use one sentence to write something nice about the birthday student and put it into an envelope. To decrease possible transmission of any virus, the envelope will be given to birthday student after 72 hours. You could also do the same thing using an autograph book.
2. Have a BIRTHDAY CARD for the classmates to decorate, sign and relay birthday wishes. After 72 hours from student handling, this will be sent home with the birthday student.
3. Sponsor a child overseas and ask the students to write to the child. The teacher can bring in things to teach the students something about the child you have chosen to sponsor, including information about where they live, what kind of games kids there like to play, etc. Continue to provide information to the class about the sponsored child throughout the school year.

4. Have the kids work on a quick community service project together. There are many websites with great ideas (examples: <http://www.kidactivities.net/post/Community-Service-Ideas-for-Kids.aspx>). One idea would be having each student write a letter to someone in the military serving overseas or someone in a nursing home.

5. If weather permitting, ask the teacher to play a dance song outside for social distancing purposes. Have the whole class do the hokey pokey, the chicken dance, or the booty slide, whatever is your child's favorite! Invite the nurse or principal!

6. Have the birthday student choose a favorite story. Have the teacher (or student) read the story to the class in a special place, i.e. outside under a shady tree.

7. Birthday student can pick from a list of silly activities or performing a special skill (singing, cartwheel) that the teacher is to do in front of the class.

8. Birthday student is permitted to wear their pajama's or a hat for their special day.

9. Birthday student shares some special memories or toy with the class (public speaking practice).

10. Birthday student wear's a special crown or badge for their birthday. Allow child to be "queen" or "king" for the day – give them the leadership role of line leader, calendar helper, etc. The crown or badge goes home with the student.

11. Extra IPAD/computer time for the birthday child.

12. Birthday student becomes the "teacher" for a certain number of minutes.

13. Plays "Birthday Math".
14. Birthday student gets to pick out a movie to watch for the class.
15. "Free choice activity" at the end of the day – selected by birthday student.
16. Give the birthday child a coupon to redeem for something fun in the classroom or "homework free" pass.
17. Donate a book to the library in honor of your child's birthday.