

## 25 WAYS A PASTOR CAN SUPPORT THE TEACHERS IN HIS PARISH

1. Pair up with the teachers in prayer partner groups.
2. Lift the spirits of the teachers—affirm them in staff meetings.
3. Hold a yearly staff appreciation week.
4. Place a little surprise in their mailboxes every now and then. Include a note about how you appreciate them.
5. Sell them on “The Mission of the Church” and how they fit into that mission.
6. Build up your teachers—one on one.
7. Write a letter to each teacher, telling them that they are important to the church and its mission.
8. Write a letter to the faculty as a whole telling them of the importance to the congregation of the staff.
9. Have a custom-made Christmas gift made with their name and a Bible verse (sticky pads, pens, T-shirts, etc.)
10. Give them something to lift their spirits after a long day (candy hearts, special snack or drink).
11. Help them to see the pastor’s presence in their lives—work on a true relationship with them, see them as individuals.
12. Get people from the church to visit the classrooms and share unique hobbies (adult show-and-tell).
13. Find a way to involve people in the congregation in other ways so that the congregation feels the importance of the school and what the teachers are doing for the mission of the church.
14. Honor your teachers in church: installation Sunday, other special Sundays. Let the congregation know who these teachers are.
15. Put the teachers’ pictures up in the church so everyone gets to know them. Include the classes with the teacher.
16. Have a special week or month to honor a teacher and his or her class. Have the classes do a special activity for the good of the church.
17. Pray for the teachers as a staff and as individuals.
18. Include the teachers’ ministries in the church newsletter. Let the honors come from you as the pastor and not just always from the principal.
19. Dedicate a committee for teacher support. They could provide special lunches, time off for a period from the class, etc. Let them be advocates for teacher concerns.
20. Have a “Shepherd’s Staff” store where the teachers can choose two items each week (candy bars, chips, pens, etc.) This works well at the beginning of faculty meetings.
21. Encourage alumni to write or visit the teachers who have made an impact on their lives.
22. Assign a hospitality coordinator for events to take the burden off the teachers for every detail.
23. Write notes of appreciation for special things that the teachers have done such as guiding a child and family to baptism through the contacts made in the classroom.
24. Affirm their ministries.
25. Look at them as members of the team of the church.

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