

# School Pride

## Syllables

school pride

## Pronunciation

skool prahyd

## Definition

Feeling esteem for your school community.

(*The girls wore their school colors to show their **school pride**.*)

**Simply put:** Go, Panthers (or Bobcats or Bulldogs or Silverfish ...)!

## Related Terms

Team Spirit: Proudly working together with others for a common cause.

## Fundamental Question:

**Do you have school pride?**

**Students will investigate the idea that** school pride requires personal equity; is for everyone (including administrators, teachers, parents, students, and even the wider community); and directly impacts the ability of the school to function optimally.

## Objectives

Each student will:

1. List ways in which (s)he and others have helped “re-create” the school;
2. Identify and build upon aspects of the school that instill pride;
3. Examine ways to build enthusiasm; and
4. Participate in an initiative to promote the school pride.

## Before you begin

- If possible, invite school alumni of various ages to speak with your class; and
- Print out a copy of *A-Mazing Pride* for each student.

## Suggested Sidebars:

### Speaking of School Pride (Discussion Idea)

Great classes? Sports teams? Special programs? Excellent teachers? Wonderful friends? What are you most proud of about your school and why?

### Taking It to the Next Level

Using “Speaking of School Pride” as a starting point, help your students develop, administer, interpret, and report about a questionnaire designed to find out what aspects of your school most instill pride ... and which have the opposite effect. Ask a classroom representative to present the findings to the Parent Teacher Organization, Parent Council, School Board, Principal or Headmaster, or others in positions to use the information for the betterment of the school.

# School Pride

## Procedure

1. Invite alumni of your school – representing a wide range of ages – to speak with your class about what the school was like in “their day” and to tell how the students showed their school pride “way back when.” It would be even more fun if they would bring along photos or items from their school days!
2. When the guests have gone, ask your students to describe some of the differences between the school they heard about and the school today. Ask: “What role(s) have you played in making the school what it is today?” (e.g., “I helped plant the 3rd grade garden to make our grounds pretty,” or “I had perfect attendance, which helped our school win a special award.”)
3. Ask: “Why is school pride important?” (e.g., it unifies the school community, it makes us want to be involved in school activities, etc.)
4. Ask: “What can we do to encourage others in our school to have – and show – school pride?” (e.g., say positive things about the school, make sure our parents know about and attend school meetings, do what we can to keep our school safe and clean, etc.)
5. Like everyone else, students are much more likely to support things they help create and in which they have personal equity. Assist your class in creating a school-pride campaign to be shared school-wide.

Ideas might include:

- Writing, printing, and distributing a daily school-pride paper for one week;
  - Holding contests for anything from designing school-pride bumper stickers to penning a new school slogan or song;
  - Running special events like Wear-Our-School-Colors Day or Dress-Like-a-Student-Would-Have-at-the-Time-Our-School-Was-Built Day;
  - Organize a pep rally for school academics and arts;
  - Develop a plan to start a school alumni association;
  - Prepare a booklet about the school (past and present) to distribute in the community; and
  - Propose and explore the possibilities of needed services (like an after-school homework club).
6. **Follow Up:** What are some of the things that might get between a student and his or her school pride? A littered playground? Dull classes? Little or no support from parents? Help your class brainstorm a list. Then, distribute the *A-Mazing Pride* sheets and assist your students with the directions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Reminder:** School pride means feeling esteem for your school community.

## **A-Mazing Pride**

What are some of the things that can get between a student and his or her school pride?

What are some ways around those things?

In the area below, design a maze that shows ways to help students reach the point of school pride. (Mark your paths and dead ends clearly!) Share copies of the maze with your classmates.

Today's Thought: *We don't accomplish anything in this world alone ... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.* — **Sandra Day O'Connor, Associate Justice Of The Supreme Court Of The United States**