

# What You Didn't Know About Teacher Appreciation Week History

**N**ational Teacher Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1953 when Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded Congress to set aside a day to recognize educators. The origins of the idea for a day, however, are unclear. Experts estimate it dates back to the early 1940s. Some references cite the advocacy of a Wisconsin teacher and other references credit the efforts of a teacher in Arkansas for first working to establish a teacher appreciation day.

But despite this debate, one thing is certain...Teacher Appreciation Day first became a nationally recognized day of appreciation in the U.S. on March 7, 1980. People continued to celebrate in March until 1984, when the National Parent Teacher Association designated the first full week of May as Teacher Appreciation Week.







## DID YOU KNOW?

- Massachusetts recognizes Teachers' Day on the first Sunday of June.
- In the U.S., 3.7 million people work as elementary & secondary teachers in public schools.
- According to AAE's 2015 National Teacher Survey, 83% of teachers are satisfied in their career.
- About 40% of people entering the profession in the United States are coming from other careers.
- Nearly half of AAE member teachers hold a master's degree.
- Studies prove that a great teacher can impart a year & a half's worth of learning to a student in one year.
- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) declared October 5 as World Teachers' Day in 1994.
- A whopping 92% of AAE member teachers reported making innovative classroom gains using technology in the classroom.
- Teachers on average are working 10 hours & 40 minutes a day. That's a 53-hour workweek!
- 77% of U.S. adults feel teaching is among the most underappreciated professions in the U.S.

In 2015, Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 8, and National Teacher Day falls on that Tuesday.

AAE celebrates National Teacher Day as the day we honor the men and women who lay the groundwork for tomorrow's innovations, today. We're proud to support teachers and lead the professional educators' movement. As the fastest growing organization of its kind, teachers from across the country are identifying with AAE's vision for educators because they see the possibilities that freedom in our nation's classrooms has for parents, students, and educators alike.

Teachers are true heroes in our communities who, through their dedication to children, work millions of small miracles every day. And the vast majority of teachers in the United States are proud to be advocates for children, for educational advancement, and for their profession.

National Teacher Day focuses on the contributions teachers make to help children succeed, not just in school, but daily life. Our nation's schools are where children learn to be upstanding citizens. School is where they learn their ABCs and 123s. It's where students make their first friends...cast their first votes. It is where we all learn that wherever we are from, we are united as Americans.

**Showing our teacher appreciation shouldn't be limited to this week and day**, but establishing a particular time of the year for teacher appreciation helps us to remember how important teachers are in society.

AAE's Executive Director Gary Beckner has this message for educators: "We want to thank teachers for all they do to go above and beyond every single day both inside the classroom and out. As members of AAE, you're a prime example of what's working in the field of education today. Your active involvement in reforming our schools, in creating a more professional path for educators, and of putting students first is chipping away at the status quo more and more every day, and I'm honored to work alongside such a dedicated group of teacher leaders." ■

# Join AAE in Celebrating National Charter Schools Week!

Every year, National Charter Schools Week gives us the chance to raise awareness about amazing schools. Whether it's highlighting the academic success of students or the strong leadership of teachers, the growing movement has a lot to offer, and stakeholders are taking notice:

“We need to equip all our students with the education and skills that put them on the path to good jobs and a bright future—no matter where they live or what school they attend. Charter schools help meet that obligation.”

— **President Barack Obama**

“Fortunately, there is what's called the charter school format that lets you try new things. The system is good at shutting down the ones that don't work and replicating the ones that do.”

— **Bill Gates**

“I'm not just a charter school advocate. I'm a charter school parent.”

— **Pitbull**

“Charter schools are helping to foster a culture of educational innovation, accountability, and excellence.”

— **President George W. Bush**

“High-performing charters are already pioneers in teaching and developing the noncognitive skills that matter so much to a student's subsequent success in life.”

— **Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**

“I stand behind the charter school movement because parents do deserve greater choice within the public school system to meet the unique needs of their children.”

— **Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton**

“AAE is proud to support public charter school teachers across the country. These innovators in education are on the cutting edge of effective instruction and are proving the benefits of offering professional autonomy to teachers.”

— **AAE Executive Director Gary Beckner** ■



## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED THIS WEEK?

1. Change your profile picture(s) to one that says “I Love Charter Schools.” Keep an eye out on AAE's Facebook page for one you can use!
2. Join the TweetUp at 1 PM on May 6th using hashtag **#CharterSchoolsWeek** to help us trend on Twitter.
3. Read the winning essays about why charter schools are such an excellent place to teach and learn.
4. Call, email, or visit your elected officials to give them the FACTS about charter schools.
5. Send AAE a letter to the editor about the great things charter schools are doing for your community so we can help you spread the word! Simply email us at **editor@aaeteachers.org** using subject line “My Charter School is Great!”

**Celebrating the Power of Charter Schools**

Join the conversation:

**#CharterSchoolsWeek**

# AAE Loves You. We Hope You Love Us Too!

**A**AE loves recognizing educators all year round for the daily contributions and sacrifices they make to ensure that our schools are great. But as we join in celebrating them during National Teacher and Charter Schools Appreciation Weeks this month, we are reminded more than ever that the wonderful teachers who work tirelessly to educate our nation's students are the heart and soul of the professional educators' movement—the founding reason AAE was established!

**Here at AAE, we're proud to serve member teachers like you.**

That's why we strive to provide the best liability insurance coverage out there, why we're dedicated to giving you a distinguished voice in Washington through our annual survey, and why we love awarding scholarships and grants to some of the wisest and brightest teachers in America!

**And we hope you're proud to be a member, too!**

In fact, right now AAE is looking for teachers—LIKE YOU—who have found a home with AAE and want the world to know. If you're one of those teachers, we want to hand you the megaphone for a chance to tell others what you love about AAE in one of our future publications. We even have a gift reserved just for you if we use your quote!

So what are you waiting for? Claim your free gift today by visiting [surveymonkey.com/s/WhyILoveAAE](http://surveymonkey.com/s/WhyILoveAAE) to tell us why AAE is the association for you!



**Check out what members are already saying:**

“I support their mission and respect their tactics. Finally a fair representation for teachers. AAE finds out what we think and then voices our opinion, not their own.”

— **Laura Sage, Utah**

“AAE was more economically and ideologically in alignment with who I am as a professional compared to my former union.”

— **Rick Hudson, Wisconsin**

“My union was charging me over \$700. But my AAE benefits are way better!”

— **Neysa, Indiana**

“I disagree with a lot of union issues. I am a teacher because I care about kids and what is best for THEM, not myself.”

— **Thea Goding, Kentucky**

“My homeowner's policy didn't have enough liability protection. AAE is a great way to be a part of a professional association that is NOT part of a political action committee. I went into education to teach. Not to send my hard-earned money to a Washington bureaucrat.”

— **Kristi Creamer, Ohio**

“I never thought I would 'opt out' of our local union! I am very relieved AAE is available to represent teachers and important educational interests. My local union has lost touch and isn't hearing my concerns.”

— **Kimberli Lyons, Oregon** ■





# Memorial Day in the Classroom: A K-12 Lesson Plan

**M**emorial Day is a day of remembrance. That's why AAE hopes you celebrate this special holiday with activities, music, and craft ideas to help the students in your classroom understand its significance. Here is one way to do that:

## Subjects:

### Arts & Humanities:

Language Arts, Educational Technology

### Social Studies:

Civics, Current Events, U.S. History, Holidays

## Brief Description:

This lesson offers a handful of ways in which kids can connect with American soldiers serving around the world.

## Objectives:

Students will write thoughtful messages of hope and support to U.S. military personnel through [amillionthanks.org](http://amillionthanks.org). Then have a classroom discussion that explores other ways to support America's troops.

## Keywords:

Iraq, Soldiers, Community Service, War, Troops, Letters, Email, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Military, Armed Forces, Heroes

## Materials Needed:

Internet access (optional for students; required for teachers), pencils, paper

## Lesson Plan:

This lesson offers ideas for students who would like to send messages to soldiers who are fighting for our country or serving in other ways.

For classroom purposes, you might have students compose messages of support on paper. Make sure to read the guidelines on the website! Students might type their corrected messages into a computer email program.

After the messages are sent, they can be accessed by any service member anywhere, so, if you would like to add one more step to the process, students could type their messages into a word processing document. Then you could cut and paste each message into a new Operation Dear Abby window.

**Note from the site:** "Service members without Internet access may still read messages. Company commanders who have Internet access have the ability to download bulk messages to be printed and distributed according to service branch and location."

## Assessment:

Students demonstrate their care and concern by writing thoughtful messages to America's servicemen and women. ■



# You Spoke. We Listened. AAE Launches Jobs Bank Online!

**G**reat news! AAE's member-exclusive Jobs Bank has been taken out of email hiding and is now easier to access than ever before—24-hours a day!

Now conveniently hosted directly on the web, your Jobs Bank is packed full of the latest teaching position openings, in the highest performing districts, in all 50 states!

And to further ensure AAE job listings meet the highest standards of quality and excellence for our members, we've taken our job recruiting to the next level by carefully screening and partnering with schools that share your vision and philosophy of education.

Administrators at these schools know that AAE members are the most passionate educators in the field today. That's why they send us their openings—because they want to connect with like-minded teachers like YOU!

So if you think it's time to take the next step in your educational career, don't let your dream job get away. Take advantage of this popular member resource and let AAE connect you with one of our quality partner schools by visiting [aaeteachers.org/jobsbank](http://aaeteachers.org/jobsbank) today. Listings are updated regularly!

**Do you know of a job opening that has what it takes to be added to the AAE Jobs Bank? Submit it by email to [profdev@aaeteachers.org](mailto:profdev@aaeteachers.org) using subject line "List My School!"** ■



Find Your Dream Teaching Job on the AAE Jobs Bank Today!

## Teacher Appreciation Week Word Jumble

AAE loves teachers. Unscramble the words below and email the answers to [contests@aaeteachers.org](mailto:contests@aaeteachers.org) for your chance to win this month's AAE teacher prize pack!

### Scrambled Words:

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. aelpp        | 11. efgillno |
| 2. aaceiinopprt | 12. aegilnnr |
| 3. aclmoors     | 13. emnort   |
| 4. bceinorsttu  | 14. eenprst  |
| 5. acdeinotu    | 15. chloos   |
| 6. efrtuu       | 16. eefllss  |
| 7. ggiinv       | 17. amrst    |
| 8. efllpu       | 18. denssttu |
| 9. hnoor        | 19. aceehrt  |
| 10. aimnoprtt   | 20. afhklntu |

**Word Bank:** Teacher, Thankful, Appreciation, Present, Helpful, Students, Honor, Education, Contributes, Important, Lifelong, Learning, School, Classroom, Apple, Smart, Future, Selfless, Giving, Mentor

# Essential “Room Mom” Checklist:

## AAE Salutes Moms This Mother’s Day

**R**oom Moms are critical liaisons between teachers and class parents. Responsibilities vary from collecting money and gathering classroom supplies to recruiting parent volunteers and coordinating classroom parties. And what teacher wouldn’t want help taking the load off their shoulders from someone equally invested in developing a positive learning environment in their classroom?

Maybe it’s too late to turn things around this year. But there’s no reason you can’t start working to make sure next school year gets off to a great start—the first room parent-teacher meeting sets the tone for the whole year! So plan ahead for ways you can set clear and specific expectations from the onset.

Together you can design a fun and successful year for everyone—teachers, parents, and most importantly...students!

### Topics to Cover in Room Mom Meeting

#### • **Teacher Contact Information:**

- How do you prefer to be contacted by the room parent? By the other class parents?
- What are the best day(s) and time(s) to reach you?
- When do you want to start planning for an event?

#### • **Class Parent Communication:**

- Who will create and distribute the class roster/contact list, school communication policies, calendars, etc.?
- Is there a class website or online group or Facebook page? Who keeps it up to date?
- What policies or expectations do you have for ongoing communication with parents?
- How do you plan to introduce your room mom to class parents? Letter? Email?

#### • **Parent Involvement and Volunteer Needs:**

- What are your ongoing parent support needs (i.e. weekly table-time helpers, readers, science lab & materials prep, recess supervisors)?
- What are your one-time parent support needs (i.e. field trips, parties, open-house, career day)?
- What special talents are needed (i.e. music, gardening, animals, cooking that parents might like to share with the kids or in volunteer roles)?

- What at-home involvement is needed (i.e. class project prep, organizing field trips, class website)?

#### • **Materials and Supplies:**

- What do you need that you’d have to pay for out of pocket? Can parents help (i.e. Kleenex, antibacterial wipes, art supplies, dry-erase markers, glue)?

**TIP** Create a no-date online sign up sheet on VolunteerSpot or Google Docs to ask for donations of materials & supplies

#### • **Class Party/Celebration Dates and Plans:**

- How many?
- Who plans (teacher or parents)?
- Food requirements (healthy or sweets)
- Allergy considerations
- Timing and activities/games/crafts
- Special ‘treat’ days & recognition parties
- School celebration policies
- Policies about photographing or videotaping kids

#### • **Class Calendar:**

- Create a paper and online calendar of all events and volunteer needs for the year

**TIP** Ask parents to sign up to help at the start of the year for ongoing support and class events throughout the year. It’s much easier to make commitments in September than it is to recruit parent helpers in May when parent schedules are extra busy.

### Rinse. Repeat.

Your first meeting is only the beginning. Check in with your classroom helper(s) monthly to plan the next month’s activities and parent support needs. Monthly check-ins are also a terrific opportunity to ask for feedback about parent participation and communication practices. Small adjustments (e.g. sending fewer emails or changing the time of a weekly reader shift) can go a long way to boosting parent participation in the classroom.

Good luck next school year! ■

Originally posted on [blog.volunteerspot.com](http://blog.volunteerspot.com).



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Presorted Standard  
 US Postage Paid  
 #400  
 Laguna Niguel, CA

Education Matters is an exclusive publication for members of AAE and its state chapters. This publication is brought to you by the Association of American Educators Foundation (AAEF).



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# Planning Your Summer Vacation? Don't Forget About Your AAE Member Discount Program!

AAE is proud to serve thousands of professional educators from all fifty states—every day! To show our appreciation for your dedication in the classroom and your membership with AAE, we offer our member teachers this exclusive benefit to help keep more of their hard-earned money in their wallets.

Through this exclusive member program, AAE teachers have the opportunity to enjoy an elite collection of local and national perks and discounts, comparison shopping, and concierge services from thousands of their favorite hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, spas, theme parks, and more!

With over 150,000 available discounts every day, some of our popular offerings include retailers like these:



To learn more and to register for your savings today, visit [aaeteachers.org/discounts](http://aaeteachers.org/discounts)!