

Pinkerton Middle School

Speakers Program

Guest Speaker Program

How did you put together your speakers program?

The guest speaker program was first put together with the dates that were available on the school calendar. In hindsight, this is very important to work around the other activities that are on campus (as well as your own action civics/leadership/club/ avid activities) and providing a consistent and predictable place for students on monthly basis for the sanity of the organizers (us).

The next step was about finding out who in the community was interested. This is the step that was worrisome, expecting little to no response. However, the joke was on us (in a really good way) with an abundant response! As well as surprise guest speakers coming from areas we did not account for (parents of students, substitute teachers). With a formulated email to a group of individuals and a list of possible dates, our group received feedback to fill a monthly speaker session for the calendar year.

After the dates were filled, confirmation emails were sent out about 2-4 weeks prior to the event, as well as announcements going through the Advocacy class (homeroom) and over the bulletin. Overall, at our school of 1000 we had a consistent group of about 40 students who would attend.

When students arrived, they would receive a card (made out of cardstock and premade) that would work as a thank you card as well as an informative survey for us (the organizers) to find out what they learned and what they liked most from the presentation.

What are your plans around speakers for next year?

For next year, knowing that there are many community members who would like to come out, we would like to have more guest speaker that would be of interest to the students, especially surrounding certain issues that they care about, such as having a speaker to come out during black history month to discuss relevant topics to our students. Also, to better coordinate our calendar so our events work more smoothly with each other.

If someone wanted to replicate this at their school, what advice would you give them?

To replicate you can use the template of the email below as well as the template for the "Thank You card". All you really need is to look at your school's schedule for an opportune time (a late start, an advo class, a lunch time) find a place that would work on a consistent basis, get the personnel on board for set up (if it is not a classroom that you are using) and send out those email, from there the responses are very flexible about working with you and your technology to present 😊

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Email Template:

WANTED!! Guest Speakers at our Middle School site!

My name is Chelsey Fernandez and I am from the Action Civics Team at Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School in the Elk Grove Unified School District. We have begun an exciting Action Civics program at our school in a variety of ways. ...

This year our team would like to introduce community members by having guest speakers come to our school and share about a local, engaging topic. The amount of time would be limited to 30-40 minutes and the size of the audience would range from 40-80 students who are interested in the topic/presentation.

So, this is an **all call** to our community members who are interested in coming to our school to share with students about a topic of their choice to get our students excited about being civically minded and involved in their communities. And even if you are unable to, maybe you have a connection or another person who would be interested in presenting?

Here is a list of lessons students will have been exposed to during the school year...

- What is democratic representation?
- What type of leader are you?
- What is a citizen and their responsibilities?
- What do you know about your community?
- Making policy. Bad v. Good Policy?
- Judicial Court system and how it works

Our Action Civics Team is open to any presentation, we are looking to bring the community to our site, this will truly open the minds of our students to the many opportunities and activities that are going on in their community that they can learn more about and even get involved in!

Here is a list of possible dates that might work for you. They are all Thursdays, from 9:30-10:30am

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