

# Rituals, Traditions and Ceremonies

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### Rituals

Rituals are procedures or routines that are infused with deeper meaning. They help make common experiences uncommon events. Every school has hundreds of routines, from the taking of attendance in the morning to the exiting procedures used in the afternoon. But when these routine events can be connected to a school's mission and values, they summon spirit and reinforce cultural ties.

### Traditions

Traditions are significant events that have a special history and meaning and that occur year in and year out. Traditions are part of the history; they reinvigorate the culture and symbolize it to insiders and outsiders alike. They take on the mantle of history, carrying meaning on their shoulders. When people have traditions that they value and appreciate, it gives them a foundation to weather challenges, difficulties, and change.

### Ceremonies

Ceremonies are complex, culturally sanctioned ways that a school celebrates successes, communicates its values, and recognizes special contributions of staff and students. Successful ceremonies are carefully designed and arranged to communicate values, celebrate core accomplishments, and build a tight sense of community.

Identify one activity \_\_\_\_\_ **R T C**

<b>What is the activity?</b>	<b>What are the messages being sent?</b>
<b>What are the underlying values?</b>	<b>What are the desired student outcomes?</b>