

# mutual appreciation ideas

The following list offers some simple ways for teachers and pastors to appreciate each other. Small things can go a long way in strengthening the ministry partnership.

## swag

Give each other stuff. *(Teachers...if you have stuff with the school logo on it, make sure the pastor has two of each—one for him/her and one to give away. Pastors... donuts, flowers, a Tim's card...let teachers know you're thinking about them!)*

## honour

Say "thank you" publicly. *(Teachers and Pastors...praise your pastor in front of students and parents as a partner in ministry.)*

Publish special thanks. *(Teachers...name the pastor in your newsletter, acknowledging his contribution to your school. Pastors...include special thanks to individual teachers in the church bulletin, acknowledging their work.)*

## support

Show support for both school and church programs. *(Be on time for board meetings, visit all constituent churches, follow through on commitments, offer public verbal support)*

Don't believe everything you hear. *(When others criticize your partner in ministry, give your partners the benefit of the doubt and never publicly criticize them.)*

## invite

Look for regular opportunities to invite each other to programs. *(Teachers...personally invite or ask students to invite the pastor to specific school programs. Pastors...invite teachers to church programs without the expectation of additional work on their part.)*

## connect

Be intentional about connecting. *(Teachers... consider having classes "adopt a pastor", sending encouraging notes and praying daily for him/her. Pastor...schedule regular times to be at the school, to play with kids at recess, to have worship, to offer baptismal classes, etc)*

## listen

Listen to each other without judgement. Do what you can to support each other in the challenges you face. Follow through on any promises to help

## communicate well

Maintain a strong and consistent information flow. Eliminate surprises in areas like finance, board actions, community concerns.

Don't take anything for granted; if you have a question or concern, share it clearly and kindly. *(Teachers and Pastors...don't wait for big concerns to communicate. Share the small things and the good things first.)*

Communicate in several ways: cards, email, phone, text, social media . . . whatever works best for both of you.

## serve

Find ways to share your talents. *(Teachers... look for ways that students can serve the church: clean-up days, service days, etc. Pastors...involve students in the church service, for music, scripture, etc.)*

## collaborate

Ask each other for advice. *(Teachers...ask your pastor for a book recommendation on a Bible topic you're preparing. Pastors... ask teachers for ideas on including children or youth in the church service.)*

Work together to promote Adventist education, especially on Education Sabbath.

## pray

Pray for each other, every day in your own devotions, and together as often as you can. Encourage those in your circle of influence to pray, too. *(Teachers...encourage students and teachers to pray for your pastors. Pastors... encourage church members to pray for their school, the teachers, and students.)*