

**TOPIC**

Acknowledging & Recognizing

LEVEL

Fourth Grade

THEME

Recognizing Our School Community

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

- Extend recognition beyond the classroom by identifying and acknowledging the important roles and contributions of staff throughout the school community.

MATERIALS

- Scavenger Hunt worksheets (one per group)
- Pencils or pens
- Construction paper for cards
- Markers, crayons, and stickers
- Tape or envelopes (if delivering cards later)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Who helps make our school a safe, clean, and kind place?
- Why is it important to recognize the efforts of people who may not always be in the spotlight?
- How does showing appreciation to others support everyone's mental well-being?

CHECK-IN / WELCOME (5 MINUTES)

Say: "Today, we're going to talk about something powerful: acknowledging and recognizing the people around us who help make our school an amazing place. First, think about this question: 'Who are the people at our school who help us, even if we don't always see them?'"

Write responses on the board as students answer: custodians, cafeteria staff, nurse, bus drivers, office staff, recess monitors, librarians, etc.

Say: "These people do important jobs every day, sometimes quietly, without us even noticing. But Aavidum is about saying: 'I've got your back.' Part of that is noticing and appreciating those who help keep our school running smoothly."

GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Say: "Just like we've talked about recognizing good things in ourselves and our classmates, today we're going to extend that kindness to all the people who help our school community. We'll go on a 'School Recognition Scavenger Hunt' to notice them in action, and then we'll make cards to show our appreciation."

Hand out scavenger hunt sheets. Pairs or groups work together; if needed, coordinate adult supervision.

Say: "Here's how it works:

- You'll get a 'School Recognition Scavenger Hunt' sheet with simple tasks like waving to a staff member, thanking a custodian, or noticing a kind thing an adult is doing.
- Walk respectfully in pairs or small groups.
- Check off tasks as you go.
- No running, and be polite if someone is busy."

GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (CONTINUED)

Read a few example tasks aloud:

- “Wave and smile at a staff member.”
- “Thank the cafeteria staff for lunch.”
- “Ask the librarian their favorite book.”

Say: “Remember: we’re not just completing tasks. We’re really paying attention to the people who make our school better.”

Students complete scavenger hunt while you circulate and support.

ACTIVITY: RECOGNITION CARDS (20 MINUTES)

Say: “Great job noticing our helpers! Now, let’s take it one step further. Think about one person you saw today who made a difference. Someone who helped, smiled, or worked hard for our school. We’re going to make Recognition Cards to show our appreciation.”

Pass out blank cards and decorating supplies.

Put prompts on board:

- “Thank you for...”
- “I appreciate you because...”
- “Our school is better because you...”

Say: “Write a short thank-you message. Add drawings or stickers to make it bright and cheerful. Even a simple ‘thank you’ can make someone’s day.”

Allow students 8 to 10 minutes to create cards.

Partner with your school’s Aavidum Club to have the student leaders deliver the cards that the students in your classroom made, or come up with a plan to have a few student volunteers sort and deliver the cards themselves.

WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

Say: “Let’s reflect:

- How did it feel to notice the good things adults do in our school?
- Why might a kind card or thank-you make someone’s day better?
- How do you think this connects to Aavidum’s message: ‘I’ve got your back?’”

Say: “When we recognize others, we’re not only making them feel good, but we’re helping our whole school feel like a connected community where everyone matters. When people feel appreciated and seen, it helps them feel happier and less stressed. This is true for students AND adults. That’s why Aavidum is so important. It reminds us to notice each other and say, ‘I’ve got your back. When we build this kind of community, no one has to feel invisible or alone.’”