

• School District Flag Contest

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This excerpt differs slightly in appearance from the format of the book; however, all the content is identical.

Elevating School Pride And Morale Through Creative Student Participation

INTRODUCTION:

The Birch Run Area Schools held a contest which asked for all students to design a flag for the district. One design was chosen from all entries received from students in grades K-12. Each morning the district's new flag is raised along with Old glory and the state flag by the student color guard. Screened with the school colors of blue and gold, the flag features a start with then umber one in it center and the school motto: Expect the Best...Accept No Less. Each day a message--a reminder--flies above the schools and village.

BENEFITS:

1. For the students of Birch Run Area Schools, the district flag is a symbol of their school pride.
2. The staff members and administrators see the flag as a reminder of their goal: Expect The Best...Accept No Less.
3. The school motto has become the community's motto; the flag has become the community's flag.

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

The first step was to draw up the school district flag contest rules and decide the criteria by which each entry was to be judged. The contest rules were then distributed to the faculty on a flag contest flier (enclosed).

In the fall, a selection committee--composed of parents, teachers, students, and board members--was formed, and the contest flier was given to all students. Regular reminders were made during morning announcements while entries were submitted. During the winter, the entries were judged and the winner was announced with much fanfare. All participants received thank you (enclosed) or congratulatory letters and commendations (enclosed) from the superintendent and the board of education.

Birch Run Schools then ordered 12 flags (3' x 5', 2 color screen, nylon with heading and grommets) from a flag and banner company.

In the spring, a flag raising ceremony was held. Elementary teachers and their classes paraded to the flagpole with the high school band in attendance to perform the school song and the national anthem. The superintendent acted as master of ceremonies, and the flag contest winner was the guest of honor. Local dignitaries and community members were invited, and press releases (enclosed) were sent to local newspapers. The school flag was proudly raised by an elementary color guard before all in attendance.

On the opening day of school and every school day, the flags fly above the Birch Run School building. Extra flags have been framed and now grace the walls of their board room and school lobbies. The banner also hangs proudly from the rafters of their gymnasiums.

SCHOOL FLAG CONTEST

PURPOSE: To design a school district flag

RULES: One design will be chosen from all entries (K-12).

The judging will be based on the following:

1. The flag must include the school log: "Expect The Best...Accept No Less"
2. Predominant use of school colors--gold and blue
3. Originality (no mascots--panthers)
4. Neatness
5. Educational orientation
6. Simplicity (keep in mind the winning design will be constructed from fabric)
7. Use white 12" x 18" construction paper
8. Use colored markers, crayons, pens, or pencils
9. All entries are due by April 3rd

PRIZE: The winning design will be sewn and then displayed at all schools. The winner will receive his or her very own flag.

P.S. All entries *must* have student's name and grade on the back of the entry.

Sample thank you letter

Dear Student:

On behalf of the Birch Run Area Schools I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your participation in our School Flag Contest. Your interest, motivation, and hard work are very much appreciated and are further indicators of the talented and creative students with whom we have the pleasure to teach and learn.

Over 500 entries were submitted. Although only one winner could be chosen, all designs submitted were worthy of consideration. The judges' decision was very difficult.

I hope you continue to participate in future contests our school district has planned. And I pledge to you that our district will continue to provide the best education possible. We will continue to "Expect The Best...And Accept No Less."

Sincerely,

Bart Jenniches
Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

This fall the newly created Birch Run Schools flag will proudly fly above the district's three buildings. Displaying the school motto "Expect The Best...Accept No Less," the blue and gold banner was designed by Chris Hosner, a seventh grade student at Marshall Greene Middle School.

A special flag raising ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 9:15 a.m. on the front lawn of North Elementary School. At this ceremony Hosner will be presented with a flag by Superintendent Bart Jenniches.

Hosner's design was chosen from 525 entries in a school-wide contest held last April. Judging was based on originality, neatness, simplicity, and educational orientations. Mrs. Sally Accetta, middle school art teacher, directed the contest.

"The school flag is a symbol and a reminder of Birch Run's quest for excellence," said Jenniches. "Our number one goal is to provide the best education possible for our students."

The 3' x 5' nylon flag was made by the Heritage Flag Company of Oxford, Michigan.

This border art
differs from that in
the book.

*Commendation Award
Presented to*

(Student's Name)

On

(Date)

For

SUPERINTENDENT

PRESIDENT, Board of Education