

Smile Passes – from the “Original Mike Smith”

My Friends:

Below are my thoughts on creating a smile event. I truly believe such an event would be a great addition to any school population. I am looking for a way for the student leadership to promote a positive environment for everyone at the school. It needs to be simple, fast and fair. Please look this over, improve it (all of us are smarter than any one of us) make it better, change it entirely if you like, but let me know what you do with it and how what you do works.

Desired Outcome: To provide a vehicle to spread an uplifted attitude to every member of the School Community who wants to participate by creating an opportunity for everyone to be invited to smile and to pass that smile on.

Supplies: 1) Enlarged copies of the Smile Pass Poem to be signed by each participant and passed on. 2) as many small card sized Smile Passes as necessary for everyone who participates to have a keep sake. 3) Smiley face stickers. 4) A prize to be awarded to the winning group. 5) A race form – a simple list including name and contact information for each recipient and the time the pass was in their possession.

Possible Activities

- 1) A class race – A class competition
 - a. Additional supplies- a roster of the class and judges
 - b. Rules:
 - i. **The original large smile pass must be passed from one student to another.** As they offer the pass they say something like, “Just wanted you to have a smile today. Please smile back and pass this smile and smile pass on to someone else and I need you to follow me to register the pass.” Then they take the recipient to RACE CENTRAL.
 - ii. **At Race Central the passer is presented with a smiley face sticker and business card sized smile pass and the new recipients name is checked off the class roster and filled into a race form.**
 - iii. **Each recipient must sign the large card in front of the judges and SMILE,** then they are sent out to find a classmate who is not wearing a smiley face, to bring back to Race Central.
 - c. The winning class is
 - i. The first class to pass the smile passes to everyone in the class.
 - ii. Or failing that, the class who has passed the smile to the highest percentage of classmates in a certain time frame.
- 2) All-School Race – is run against time.
 - a. Set a specific time limit.
 - b. Divide into teams who will sheppard the smile pass through as much of the school community as possible in a limited time period.
 - c. Decide any other restrictions you want to place on the teams like: can you have the same person appear on more than one list or must each team find only people who have not yet

shared the smile pass or are we playing everyone in the school or only certain populations (freshmen, Faculty, men, women)

- d. Decide how many smile passes each team is going to play.
- e. Provide each team with a stack of smile passes (business card size) and a blank race list form to record the path of the smile pass through the school population.
- f. Rules:
 - i. **The original large smile pass must be personally passed from a team member to the first recipient and then from each recipient to another.** The role of the team member is to stay with the pass as it moves around the school population and record that movement on the form. They are also responsible for passing out the smiley faces and the card size smile passes.
 - ii. **As the recipients offer the pass to someone else, they shake hands and say something like,** “Just wanted you to have a smile today. Please smile back and pass this smile and smile pass on to someone else. I need you to follow me to register the pass.” Then they take the recipient to Race Central.
- g. **Each recipient must sign the large card and SMILE and pass the card on.**
- h. The winning team is the team who has helped pass the smile to the most people within time frame.

3) Smile Day –

- a. Any group of students decides to expand their influence one day so they commit to smiling and meeting people they do not already know.
- b. Process:
 - i. Using a school roster, locate a predetermined number of specific students for each player. Make the number realistic. Remember each player has to find these people in one day. I like the idea of taking the number in the student body, subtracting the number of players, and then taking 1% of that number. (for example, 900 students, 24 players + $876 \times 1\% =$ almost 9 names each must find) But you can work out the details.
 - ii. The game:
 1. Each player takes the designated number of cards and signs them.
 2. Then they go looking for the people on their lists.
 3. When they find one, they walk up and present a smile and a smile pass explaining that they just wanted the recipient to know that they matter at this school and the importance of smiling. Shake their hand. Present the signed smile pass and one blank for them to sign and pass on and tell them where they can get more if they want to pass any more out.
- c. You could use the larger smile pass as a signature piece for each of the players to prove they reached each of their designated people.
- d. The object is to see how many people get a SMILE PASS in a day while the players get to meet people they do not normally visit.

- 4) Ok, here I need lots of help. How could we involve a cell phone? Perhaps the poem is a bit much for the phone call but the word SMILE might not be. I don't know how you could make it a game or how you would know how many students received it. Maybe this, send a SMILE text to everyone your leadership team has on their phones with instructions for them to send it on to their friends with the note that between 3rd and 4th period everyone who received the note will –

- a. Sing Jingle Bells (yea, right)

- b. Yell, “everyone smile”
- c. Sing the “Fight Song”
- d. Anything that everyone can do in a short period of time so everyone can see how successful the Smile Pass was.

Quotes: Here are some quotes about smiles that might work into your publicity campaign for smiling day or week or whatever:

“Your day goes the way the corners of your mouth turn!”
“Smile, it’s good for your face!”
“It takes one tenth of the number of muscles to smile as it does to frown.”
“Smile. Your friends will be happy for you and your enemies will hate it.”
“Smile and people will wonder what you are up to.”

Acronym – I am looking for an acronym for smile or smiles that might be used for marketing the idea as well.

Smiles make interest last eternally
Simply move in lasting energy
Smiles make indifference leave everything
Smiles make indifference lose energy (my favorite so far)
Smiles make impressions, lasting examples

Caution: When you are dealing with ideas that reach out to everyone in a population remember that some of them may not want to participate and that is all right. Do not take their rejection personally, acknowledge their right not to participate and move on to the next. We humans have a tendency to let the few dictate what we offer to the many. In my experience, almost everyone wants to be part of something that is significant. Look for ways to make your smile event significant. Smiling truly does promote positive attitudes and attitude often determines outcome.

Let me hear from you about your Smile event.

Yours in Making a Difference,



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Smile

I know it isn't easy,
When things look bleak and dark,
To curl your lips and tell your eyes
It's time for them to SPARK!

But SMILING on the outside,
Will warm your inside so;
Your SMILE will make another SMILE
and then two smiles will glow!

So through life's daily ups and downs,
show forth a smiling face.
Just SMILE and pass it warmly on,
you'll make a better place!

The "Original" Mike Smith
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Pass this card and smile on to someone else.
Make it a great day!