

# Honor Recognition Assembly

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*New Horizons High School  
Pasco, Washington*

A student's suggestion turned into a new way to recognize academic achievement at New Horizons, an alternative high school. When a student representative to the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) suggested that the school have an assembly to honor those students with a 3.0 or higher grade point average, the team decided to act on it.

The ATP brainstormed ways to implement the suggestion, and the student who suggested the assembly took the lead by developing an Honor Roll bulletin board and setting the Honor Roll criteria. The team worked with teachers to identify the students who would be eligible for the next grading period. Those students and their families received invitations to the recognition luncheon.

The staff decided to have two smaller assemblies with a joint luncheon in between. This allowed for a more personal gathering, giving the families more time and opportunity to talk with staff and each other. School board members and an ATP parent representative spoke at the ceremonies, encouraging families to become or stay involved in the school and urging the students to continue working hard and achieving success.

The assembly is especially important at New Horizons because students who attend alternative schools often have not had academic success in other schools. Honoring them builds confidence and creates momentum for continued academic success.

This initiative also built bridges to families, as they were honored for their roles in their

children's education and invited to be guests of the school for lunch. New Horizons plans to continue honoring students and encouraging all students to maintain high academic performance.

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