Motivation Strategies for Secondary Students

At the heart of every successful Reading Plus implementation are dedicated educators who develop creative strategies to engage and motivate their students. Here are a few examples of the kinds of motivation strategies that secondary school teachers are using to ignite enthusiasm for Reading Plus.

Strategy: Take A Pass

After completing a major milestone for weekly assignments (for example, three weeks of weekly assignments completed on time with 80% or higher comprehension on all assignments), a student is awarded one Homework Pass. The student can use the pass to skip one regular homework assignment of his or her choosing.

What do you need to do?

- Monitor weekly assignment status by using either the Assignments Panel on the Teacher Dashboard or the Class Assignments Report.
- Create colorful Homework Passes. Consider laminating them so they can be reused after students turn them in.

Why do this?

This motivation strategy is a great way to encourage students to stay on task. They will work hard and try their best on each lesson for an opportunity to earn a pass for a homework assignment.

Take it to the next level!

If every student in your class completes all assignments with 80% or higher, take your celebration to the next level and give the whole class a Homework Pass bonus. Let students take a night off from regular homework (suggest they read a book for pleasure with all their free time!). Students will have the extra incentive of knowing all class members are working toward a common goal, which encourages each student to be diligent about completing his or her own lessons.

Strategy: And the Award Goes To...

On a daily, weekly, or monthly basis, put the spotlight on specific students who have done great work in Reading Plus. To mark the accomplishment of earning a Combo, present students with the Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Generic Combo Awards in a grand style. Presentation of the award could include music and a round of applause. Make the student feel special!

What do you need to do?

- As Combo Awards are earned, print them from the Learn Site at learn.readingplus.com
- Select upbeat music to play at your Combo celebration.

Why do this?

Successful students will feel recognized for all of their hard work. Other students will see their classmates being honored and may be inspired to do the work required to experience the same kind of reward.

Take it to the next level!

For students who struggle to earn Combo Awards, refer to our Giving Extra Points for Awards and Achievements document. You can create your own awards, or use the Leaderboard Report to track reading statistics you would like to reward. You can distribute as many awards as you like, so be creative with the categories. Set up a "Reading Plus Wall of Fame" in your classroom. Your students can post the awards they have won over the course of the year.
Strategy: Instant Party

Create weekly goals for students and then host two-minute parties to celebrate the achievement of those goals. Students can play a song of their choice and everyone can dance and sing along. Since the parties are brief, you can have as many as you like, whenever you like.

What do you need to do?
- Establish a variety of weekly goals for your students, such as complete all assigned lessons, or earn two Combos (View the Class Leaderboard Report for more ideas).
- Consider providing small prizes or treats for the winners.

Why do this?
A two-minute party allows the whole class to celebrate together, and it provides a very quick break from work. Students will want these mini-parties to occur often, so they will work hard in Reading Plus to earn these special breaks.

Take it to the next level!
Consider hosting themed parties based on the time of year (holidays or seasons) or current events. You can also set goals and deadlines for individuals and the entire class to work toward a special “supersized” party.

Strategy: Leader of the Pack

Using the Class Leaderboard Report, build an environment of recognition that can be viewed by your entire classroom. Set aside a section of a classroom wall to post impressive student achievement statistics for different categories highlighted on the report (for example, number of words read, Combos earned, etc.). The ultimate goal would be for your students to have their names on the wall in every category.

What do you need to do?
- Monitor your Class Leaderboard Report.

Why do this?
As students work continuously to improve their statistics, they will be motivated to complete all of their lessons each week. Students feel proud to see their own statistics documented on the wall, and may be inspired to improve their own performance when they see peers’ statistics.

Take it to the next level!
Highlight specific goals for students, such as 100,000 words read. When a student reaches the goal, reward him or her with a prize. Have the entire class celebrate the student’s hard work with a round of applause. If some students are struggling to complete work, directly engage them by requiring their written explanation of how they will work to increase their stats. You can also have your highest achievers offer some tips to readers who are trying to improve their stats.