

IDEAS

EASY POTLUCK IDEAS FOR SCHOOL STAFF

A collection of easy, low-lift potluck ideas designed to help school leaders bring staff together, build connection, and make appreciation feel simple.

Brought to you by your pals at

alpaca



HOST A STAFF POTLUCK

We asked Alpaca principals ways they create a positive workplace for their staff.

Top answer: staff meals.

Who doesn't love a pun-worthy theme, sharing a family recipe, or the smell of delicious food in the staff lounge!

We put together a few simple potluck ideas for your staff to try out! Plus, we added printable signs that will add some fun to each potluck.

Try one of our ideas to use next month!

WHAT'S IN HERE

Potluck ideas for your staff to join together to create a delicious meal!

Each potluck theme includes:

- Sign-up sheet(s)
- Quick tips
- Printable signs that fit each theme

3 QUICK TIPS

- ★ Send out a reminder a week or two in advance to give your staff plenty of notice!
- ★ Consider putting a sign-up sheet in the workroom to avoid duplicates!
- ★ Don't forget the plates, napkins, and silverware!

Soup Potluck

Recommended Months: October, November, January, February

A cozy staff favorite where everyone brings a pot of soup to share during lunch.

From classic comfort soups to hearty and spicy options, this potluck is an easy way to warm up, connect, and enjoy a relaxed meal together.



Pro Tip: Ask staff to label soups with ingredients or allergens and encourage half-size portions so everyone can sample a few options.



You are a

Souptacular

staff!



**Thank you for
all you do!**



Our staff is full of

SOUP-ER STARS



Family Favorites

Recommended Months: September, November, March

Staff bring a dish that holds special meaning to them, whether it's a passed-down recipe or a comfort food they love.

This potluck invites storytelling, connection, and a chance to share a little piece of home with colleagues.



Pro Tip: Invite staff to add a short note with their dish sharing why it's meaningful. This sparks conversation without adding extra work.



You make school
OUR FAVORITE
place to be!

Enjoy our staff's favorite dishes!
Thank you for all you do!

Tailgate Favorites

Recommended Months: September, October, February

Celebrate team spirit with game-day foods like dips, sliders, and favorite snacks.

This fun, casual potluck works well any time of year and brings high energy to the staff lounge.



Pro Tip: Encourage finger foods or slow-cooker items so staff can participate even if they only have a short lunch window.



**THIS TEAM CAN
TACKLE
ANYTHING!**

**Thank you for all you do -
our students are so lucky!**



TOUCHDOWN!

**THANKS FOR BEING
AN ALL-STAR TEAM!**



Taco + Nacho Bar

Recommended Months: Any month

Turn lunch into a build-your-own fiesta with tacos and nachos.

Staff sign up to bring ingredients or toppings, making it easy to create a variety of customizable options everyone can enjoy.



Pro Tip: Consider having the admin team provide the meat or main protein and invite staff to bring toppings and sides to keep participation easy and flexible.

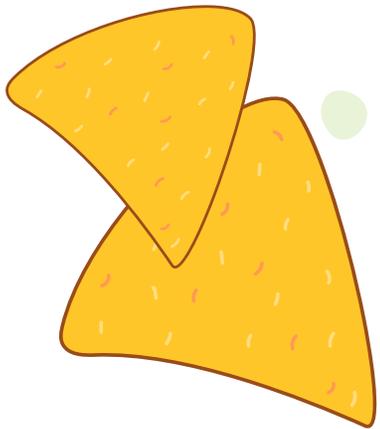
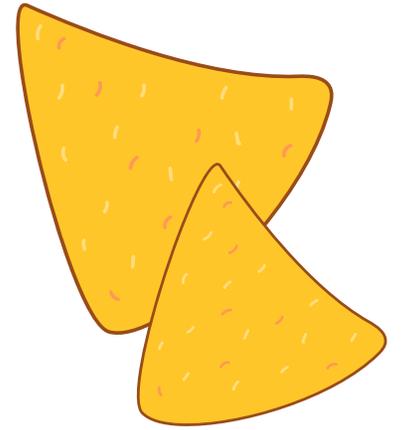
TACO
'BOUT A
GREAT TEAM!



Thanks for all you do!

**NACHO
AVERAGE
TEAM!**

Thanks for all you do!



**HOLY GUACAMOLE
OUR STAFF IS
AMAZING!**

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



Popcorn Bar

Recommended Months: October, January, March

A simple and playful option where the school provides popcorn and staff bring toppings.

Sweet, salty, or somewhere in between, this low-effort potluck is perfect for a quick morale boost.



Pro Tip: Pre-pop the popcorn or use bagged popcorn to keep set-up quick and avoid timing issues during lunch.

You make us

POP

with

appreciation!



Baked Potato Bar

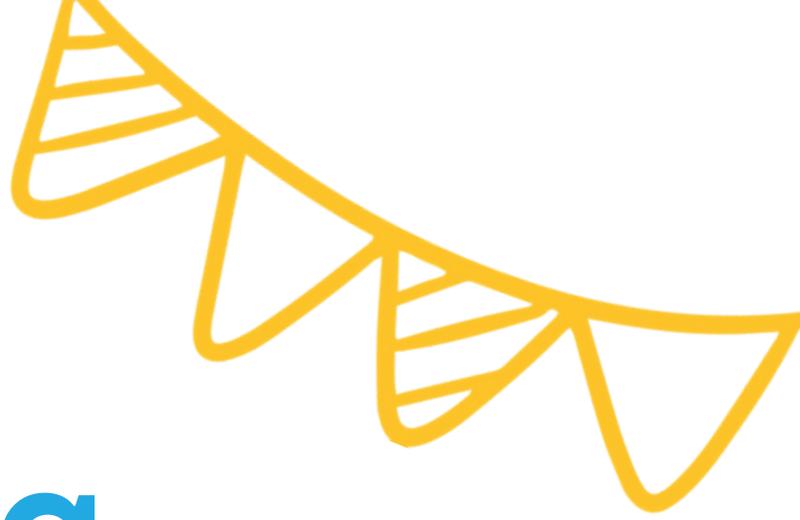
Recommended Months: November, January, February

Staff bring toppings while baked potatoes are provided, creating an easy build-your-own lunch.

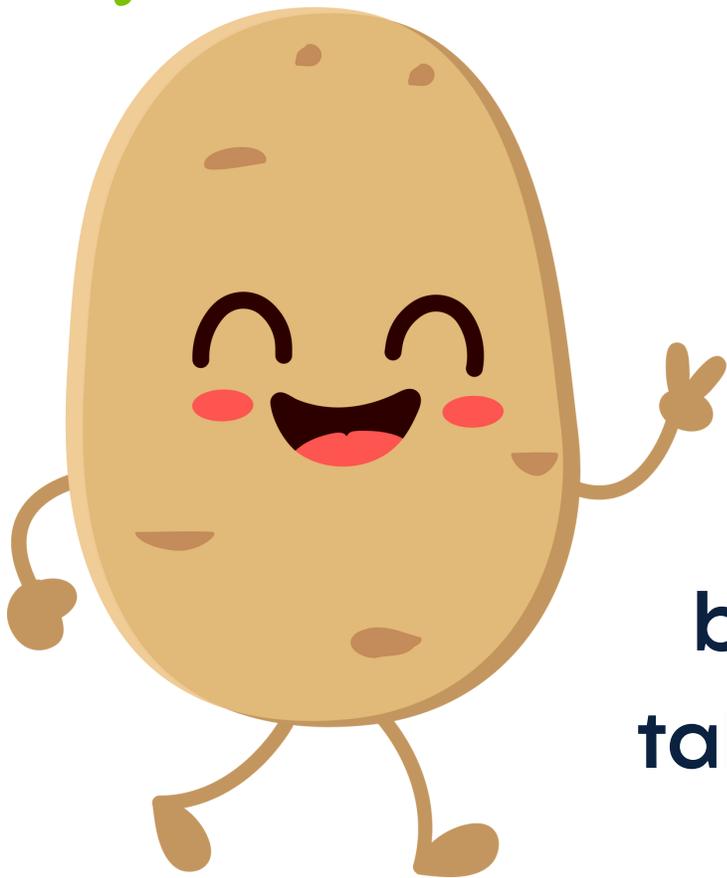
This hearty option feels special without requiring a lot of prep or coordination.



Pro Tip: Offer foil-wrapped potatoes and slow cookers to keep them warm and easy to grab throughout the lunch period.



You are a
Spud-tacular
staff!



**Thanks for
being 'potato-
tally' awesome!**



Sweet + Salty

Recommended Months: Any months

The best of both worlds, this snack-style potluck invites staff to bring either sweet treats or salty snacks.

It's flexible, quick to organize, and works well even on busy days.



Pro Tip: Limit sign-ups to "sweet" or "salty" rather than specific items to keep planning simple and flexible.



A little something

SALTY

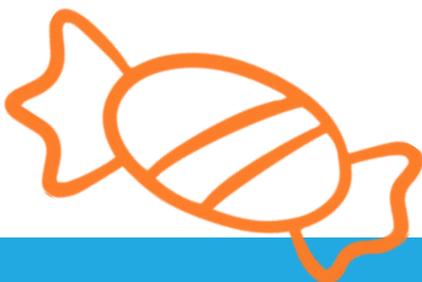
+

a little something

SWEET

because having
you as a staff is a

TREAT





OUR STAFF IS VERY SWEET

**We appreciate
everything you do!**



Breakfast Buffet

Recommended Months: August, September, January, May

A morning potluck where staff bring simple breakfast items to share before the school day begins.

Think muffins, fruit, yogurt, or bagels, an easy way to start the day feeling appreciated and energized.



Pro Tip: Choose grab-and-go items so staff can participate even if they don't have time to sit and eat together.



RISE +
shine

It's breakfast time!

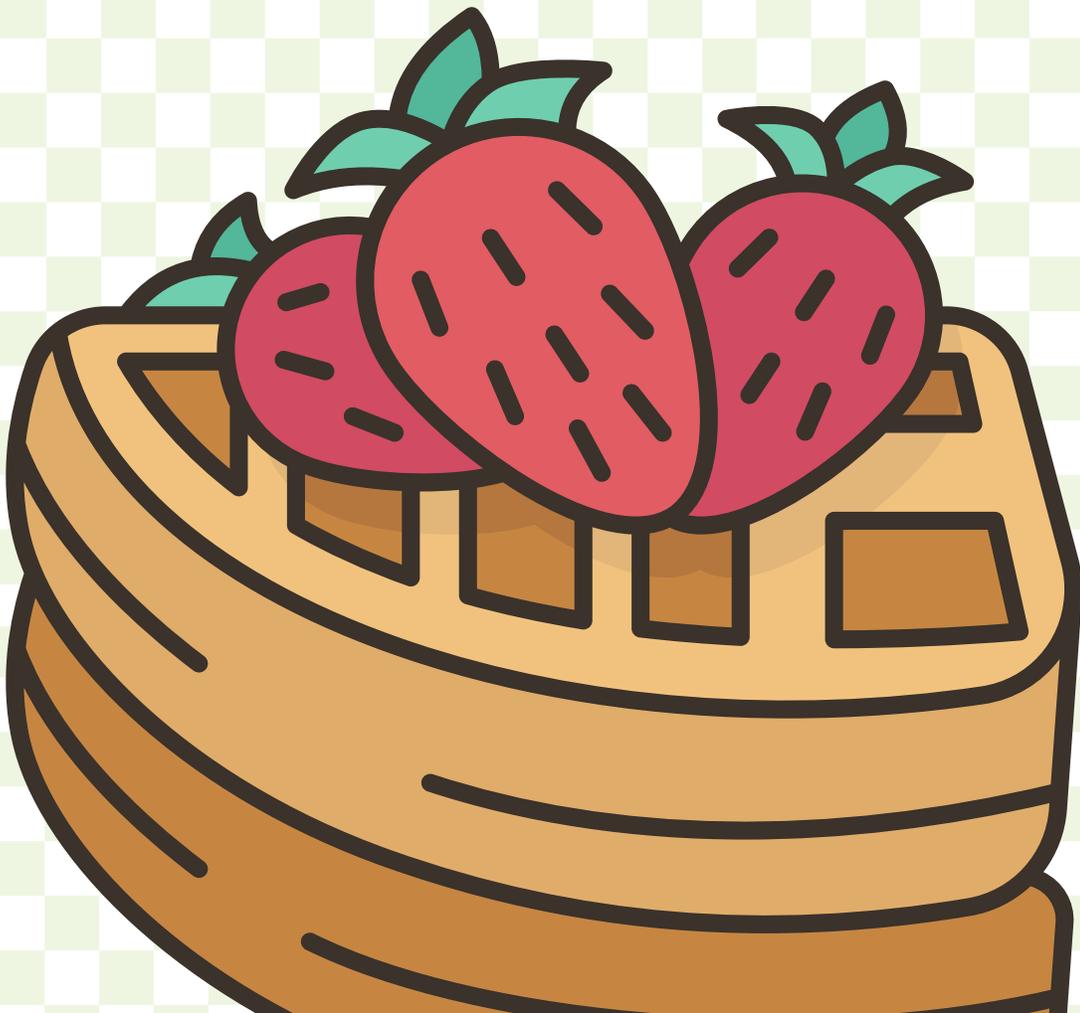
Thank you for all you do!

We'd be muffin without you!





Our staff is
WAFFLE-Y
great!





WE

DO NUT

KNOW WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT YOU!

— WE APPRECIATE YOU! —



Taste the Rainbow

Recommended Months: March, April, May

Staff sign up to bring foods that match different colors of the rainbow, creating a bright and fun spread.

This playful theme adds visual excitement while encouraging variety.



Pro Tip: Assign color sign-ups ahead of time to avoid duplicates and ensure a full rainbow spread.

Taste the Rainbow Sign Up

Please sign up for your item color by:

Red

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Orange

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Yellow

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Green

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Blue

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Purple

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



WE'RE OVER THE

RAINBOW

GRATEFUL

FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!



YOUR DEDICATION BRINGS

COLOR

TO OUR SCHOOL

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Sandwich Bar

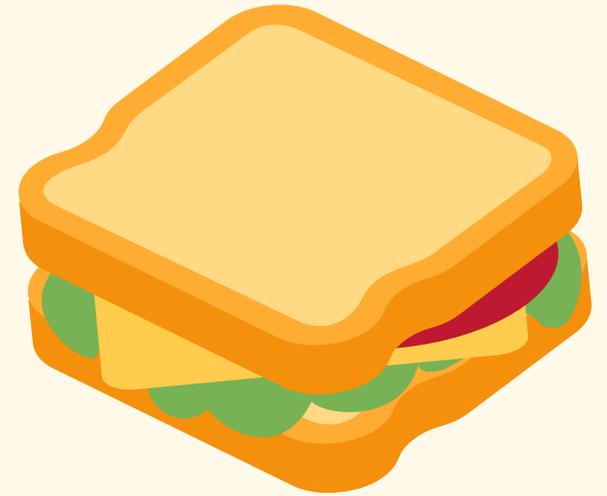
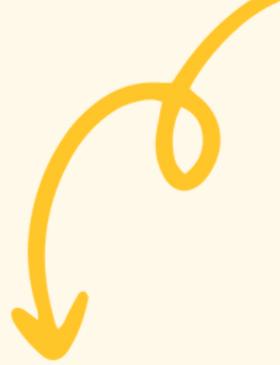
Recommended Months: March, April, May

A build-your-own lunch option where staff bring sandwich ingredients like bread, proteins, veggies, or spreads.

This flexible potluck is easy to coordinate and works well for all dietary preferences.



Pro Tip: Encourage store-bought ingredients to lower pressure and make participation accessible for everyone.



You're the
BEST THING
since sliced bread.

—— We appreciate all that you do! ——

Chili Cook-Off

Recommended Months: October, November, January

Staff bring a crockpot of chili to share, creating a warm, communal lunch with optional friendly voting.

This potluck is perfect for cooler months and adds a fun twist without feeling competitive.



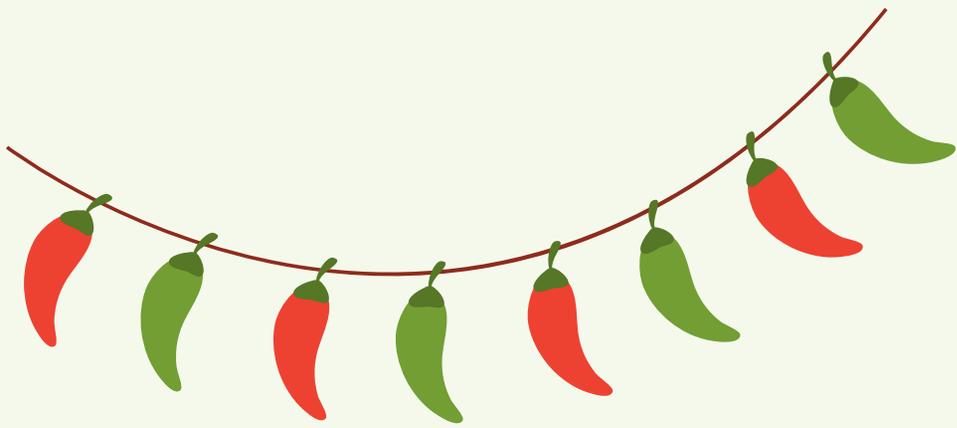
Pro Tip: Keep voting optional and lighthearted with fun categories like "Crowd Favorite" or "Most Comforting Bowl."



**CHILI GRATEFUL
FOR THIS TEAM!**

WE APPRECIATE YOU!





Stirring up success
TOGETHER



Thank you for all you do!

Cookie Exchange

Recommended Months: November, December, February

Staff bring cookies or treats to share, either homemade or store-bought.

This simple, sweet option is low-pressure and brings a little joy to the day.



Pro Tip: Set out small bags or boxes so staff can grab a few cookies to-go at the end of the day.



Our staff is full of
SMART

COOKIES

— Thank you for all you do! —



You're one

SMART
COOKIE



Thanks for making our school so sweet!



Apple Nacho Bar

Recommended Months: September, October, November

A fresh and fun twist on a potluck where the admin team provides sliced apples and staff bring toppings like caramel, chocolate chips, nuts, or sprinkles.

This build-your-own option is quick to set up and works well as a snack or light lunch.



Pro Tip: Pre-slice apples and toss them in lemon water to keep them fresh and ready to serve throughout the day.

YOU'RE THE

apple

OF OUR EYE!

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR SCHOOL
AWESOME TO THE CORE!**



Crocktober

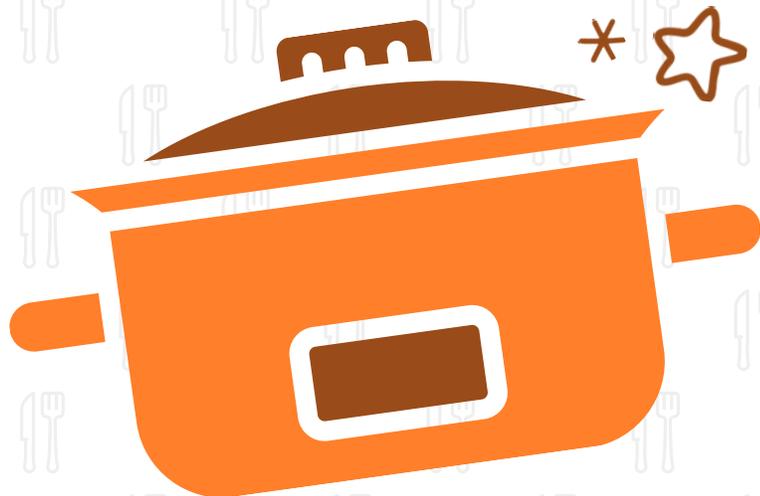
Recommended Months: October

A cozy fall potluck where staff sign up to bring something that cooks or stays warm in a crockpot.

From soups and chili to dips and casseroles, this option keeps food warm and flexible across lunch times.



Pro Tip: Ask staff to label crockpots and bring extension cords so set-up stays simple and outlets aren't overloaded.



HAPPY _____
CROCKTOBER

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU
DO-WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

Dipsgiving

Recommended Months: November

A gratitude-themed potluck where staff bring their favorite dips to share while the admin team provides chips, crackers, or veggies.

This easy, mix-and-match spread works well during busy weeks and encourages participation without a lot of prep.



Pro Tip: Offer a mix of dippers, such as chips, crackers, and veggies, so everyone can find something they enjoy.

You're all that and a
BAG OF CHIPS!

— Happy Dipsgiving —



Cereal Bar

Recommended Months: August, September, January, March

A playful throwback potluck where staff bring a box of their favorite cereal to share while the admin team provides milk and milk alternatives.

From classic favorites to newer options, this easy set-up sparks smiles, conversation, and a little childhood nostalgia in the staff lounge.



Pro Tip: Offer a few milk alternatives and small bowls so staff can sample more than one cereal without creating extra waste.



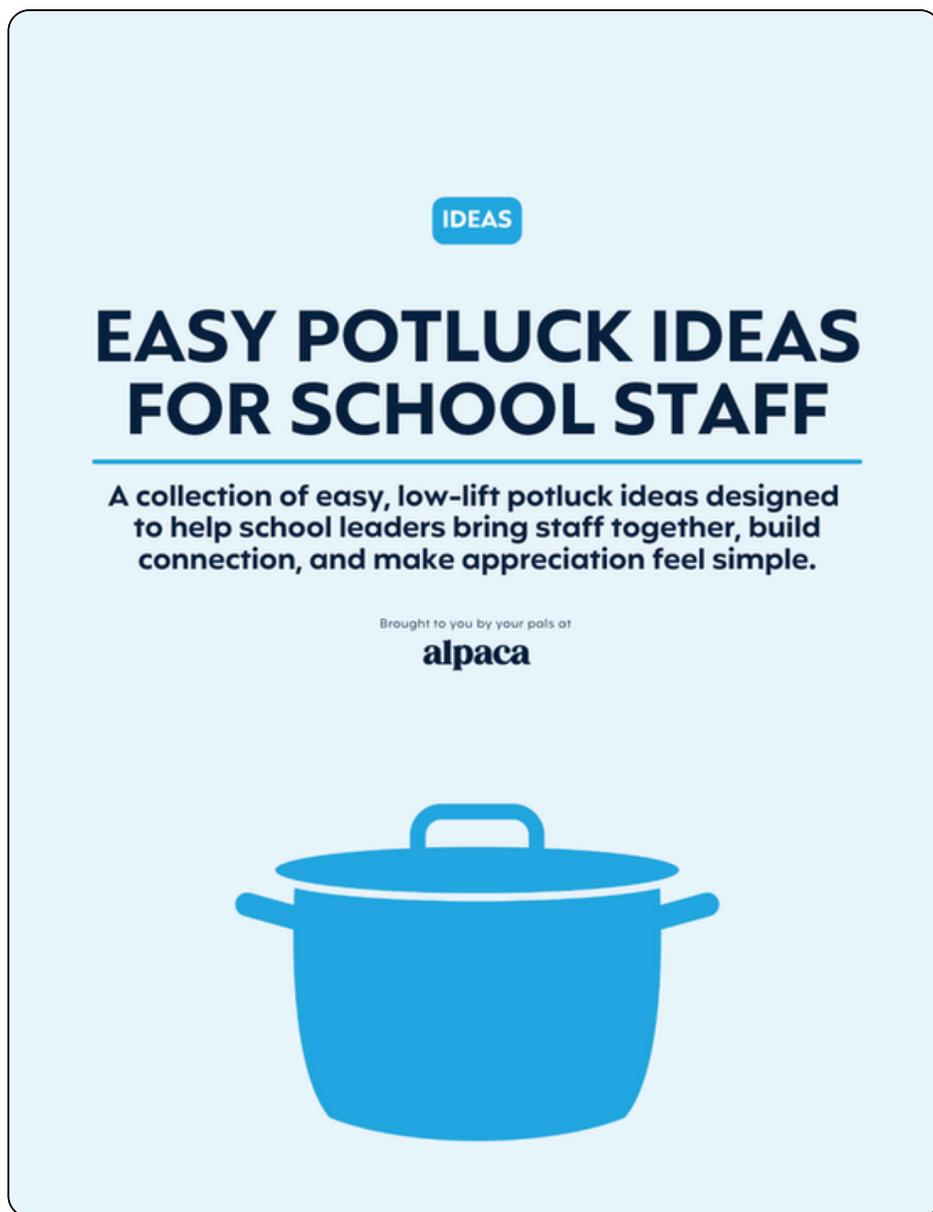
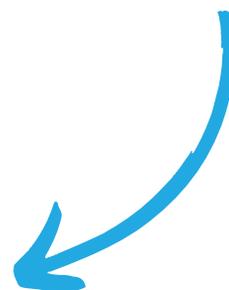
**OUR STAFF IS
CEREAL-IOUSLY
THE BEST!**



THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!

Editable Templates

Click the image to make your own for your staff!



PRINTABLE COUPONS

Perfect for rewarding your team! Use our ready-to-go printable prize coupons, and if you have an idea to add, let us know!



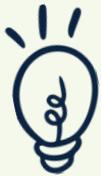
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Thanks for downloading this resource—at [Alpaca](#), we're on a mission to **make school the happiest place to work**.



Tried an activity?

Send a photo or a staff testimonial to [our team](#), and we'll send you a coffee on us!



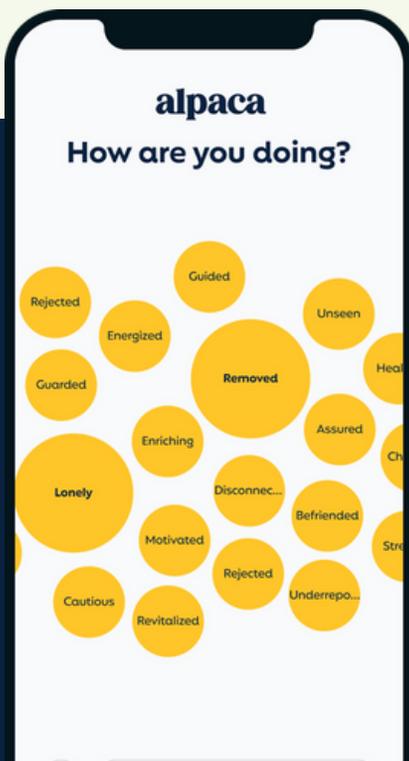
Got an idea brewing?

We love co-creating with school leaders—[drop us a line](#) with any resource ideas you'd love to see next.



Explore more!

Check out our [full resource library](#) for creative, ready-to-use tools to support you and your team.



SEE HOW ALPACA WORKS

Beautiful surveys, delightful care packages, and real insights on teacher wellbeing—everything you need to lead with confidence, all in one simple solution. [Book a quick demo!](#)