Really Good Bulletin Boards
Making Your Classroom Walls Work For You

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Bulletin Board Basics

Whether you have been teaching for decades or are entering the classroom for the first time, there is no denying that a useful bulletin board space can make your life easier. Knowing what to put up, and where to put it, can be the challenge. Use the tips and tricks in this book to help you navigate the world of bulletin boards.

Location, Location, Location

Where you put your bulletin board is just as important as what you put on it. Although many teachers think that a wall is the only place a bulletin board can be displayed, there are actually many different locations that are ideal. The next time you are planning a board, consider some of the location ideas below.

Always make sure that your students can easily see and reach the display if it is an interactive or informational style bulletin board. Location can make or break a bulletin board's effectiveness. Choose wisely.

Choosing A Subject

In today's classrooms, space is limited. Class sizes are growing and storage and learning space is shrinking. Whether you teach in a self-contained classroom, or one where students rotate throughout the day, making use of wall space is a great way to enhance learning possibilities.

Choosing of what to put up (and where!) can be the most difficult decision of all. There are things to take into consideration when selecting a subject for a bulletin board.

Some teachers prefer to have consistent boards throughout the year and change the content, but not the subject. A carefully chosen bulletin board theme is well and good, but if there is little enthusiasm and creativity behind its execution, it will fall flat. More important than the theme of the bulletin board itself is the planning and enthusiasm that is put into creating it.

Basic Bulletin Board Toolkit

No one ever said that making a bulletin board was easy, but when you have a toolkit that contains the things you use most often to create it, you will be one step ahead.

For the bulletin board ideas that are included later in this book, you will need some, if not all, of the items listed below. Consider keeping them together in a handled bucket,
Where to Get Started

The options for creating a great bulletin board typically fall in the build it yourself or buy it outright categories. We'll briefly explore both.

Creating your own bulletin board can help save on costs, but will require significantly more time and energy as you search for supplies. Thankfully, many teachers are resourceful people. Some of the best materials and supplies for your boards can be found for almost nothing, if you know where to look.

One of the greatest resources for unusual supplies and materials is craigslist.com. This site allows you to post requests for materials and browse what others are giving away. If you have a specific item in mind, you might want to start requesting it a month or two before you start planning your bulletin board.

Another source that you should never overlook is friends, family, and students’ parents. There is nothing wrong with asking if someone has a yard of green material they are not using, or artificial flowers that they no longer want. Oftentimes, people are more than willing to hand over things they no longer want, especially if it will benefit your classroom.

Whoever invented yard sales must have been a teacher, because yard sales and flea markets can be a treasure trove of inexpensive classroom supplies. Everything from toys and manipulatives to books and art supplies galore can be found for pennies on the dollar. If scouting out yard sales is not your thing, but you know someone who goes every week, make a list of the things you are looking for and ask if they will keep an eye out for the items for you.

Lastly, the dollar store and clearance sections of craft stores (both online and brick and mortar) are also great spots to check for inexpensive supplies. Many large dollar store chains now carry a wide array of poster board and themed paper that you can use on your bulletin boards.

Really Good Time Saver

Sure it may sound like a great idea to make everything from scratch, but unless you have extra hours in your day, there is just not enough time! The Really Good Time Saver ideas are perfect for getting the professional bulletin board you want, but without it taking a long time to make. As a busy teacher, you do not have time to reinvent the wheel (or the bulletin board pieces!), so take advantage of Really Good Stuff® products that can be used to help you. You will find that using ready-made products from Really Good Stuff® not only saves you time, but will also save you money overall.
Three Types Of Bulletin Boards

There are three main types of bulletin boards that you can set up in your classroom — display, information, or interactive. All of them have the potential to be wall-mounted, as well as, traveling boards or those created on a tri-fold display board. The type of board you put up will determine how engaged your students will be in it after it is completed.

1. Display Boards
Display bulletin boards do exactly what their name implies — they display student work. Often, display boards are used in the hallways outside of the classrooms to showcase student work on a new unit or subject. Display boards are great for back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences. They usually do not require a lot of planning or extra material, because the content is student generated. It is important to change the displayed work often or the bulletin board quickly becomes visually stale.

2. Informational Boards
Want to reinforce a skill with a visual reminder? An informational board is a great way to do that. It presents new information in a visual format that will help your students who remember and comprehend the subject. Informational boards can be created about any subject. They are ideal for traveling bulletin boards, as well as, wallboards. A trick for helping students focus on the material that is most important, is to limit the visual clutter and highlight the text or pictures that are most important by placing a bright, bold piece of paper behind those items. This will help to draw the students’ eyes to the places where you want them.

3. Interactive Boards
An interactive bulletin board is one where students have an opportunity to interact with manipulatives themselves. While it may seem like an easy thing to create, there are definite considerations that should be taken into account. The board should be at eye level, include color, be durable, and have clear directions about how to interact with it.

Accessibility
An interactive bulletin board does students no good if they cannot reach it. When planning such a board, make sure that it is at their eye level and easily accessible for young hands. Since most bulletin board frames are at an adult’s eye level, you may need to paper the area below the normal bulletin board section to make it work.

Colorful
Visual interest is the key to keeping children engaged in interactive bulletin boards. Plain, boring boards with little color or visual appeal will not hold students’ interest. Even if the topic being covered is interesting, students will quickly become bored and uninterested. Take the time to add coordinated colors and visual appeal to your bulletin board presentation.

Durability
If students will be manipulating items on the bulletin board itself (i.e. matching pictures of their classmates to hobbies they enjoy), make sure that the material you use is sturdy enough to withstand a lot of handling. Laminate materials that students will be touching and use the strongest Velcro or adhesive that you have available. By creating the bulletin board with sturdy materials at the beginning, you will save yourself time having to repair it over the course of its’ display life.

Instructions
Interactive bulletin boards should have clear, concise directions that are easy for your students to read and understand. If some of your students need extra help with reading, consider recording the directions and allowing students to play them back as needed. Ideally, an interactive bulletin board will be an independent workstation for students, so take their ability levels into consideration when planning activities and interaction requirements.
Month-By-Month Ideas

One of the easiest ways to plan your bulletin boards for the entire year is to choose different themes for each month. The month-by-month ideas below give you options for each month of the year (including the summer months), for year-round bulletin boards. Choose the ones that will work best with your curriculum and your students’ interests.

August

Let’s Grow On One Another

Theme: **Community Building**  
Type Of Board: **Display**

Materials Needed:  
- light blue paper or fabric  
- brown chart paper  
- manila folder  
- green construction paper  
- red construction paper  
- permanent marker

This bulletin board can last from the beginning of the school year to the very last day with some slight modifications along the way. Begin by covering the board with light blue fabric or paper. Next, cut out a large, bulletin board size tree that features branches and a trunk. Use the green construction paper to cut out leaves and add them to the tree. At the base of the bulletin board, cut a manila file folder into the shape of a bushel basket and place apple cutouts with each child’s name in the folder. On the first day of school invite students to find their name and hang their apple on the tree. As the year progresses, the apples can be harvested in the fall, the green leaves can turn to beautiful autumn colors, and by winter the trees limbs return to bare. Spring can see the rebirth of leaves and blossoms as you track the seasons on the class bulletin board.

*Tip: Try labeling the leaves on the tree from 1 to 100 and have a student remove one of the leaves each morning on the way to school to countdown to the 100th day of school.*

**Really Good Time Saver**

Instead of cutting out a tree, use the **Really Good Poet-Tree Display Kit** (item 158408). It comes with leaves, apples, and pears for year-round decorating. The tree is laminated and refills are available of the apples, leaves, and pears, so you will be able to re-use the kit year after year.

Buzzing With Good Behavior

Theme: **Behavior Management/Classroom Rules**  
Type Of Board: **Display/Interactive**

Materials Needed:  
- bee-print fabric or plain brown butcher paper  
- white or tan poster board  
- cutouts of bees  
- permanent marker
Addressing behavior management from the first day of school is important for establishing clear rules and discipline. This bulletin board idea helps solidify those expectations by having students help you create it. Cover the board with bee print fabric or plain brown paper. Cut out a large beehive shape from the poster board and write your classroom rules on it. Have students write examples of how to follow the rules on the smaller bee cutouts and hang them on the board around the hive. For example, if one of the classroom rules is “Be respectful of others,” students could write things such as, “Don’t talk when others are talking,” and “Raise your hand.” This not only helps reinforce what the rules are, but gives children a chance to process what each one means.

**Really Good Time Saver**
The We Show Great Bee-havior Poster And Magnet Set (item 158492) not only can be used in place of the giant bee hive mentioned in the bulletin board idea above, it can also be used as a daily behavior management tracking tool. Combine daily behavior monitoring with this quick and easy time-saving alternative.

### September
**Touchdown!**

**Theme:** Football/Math/Reading/Writing  
**Type Of Board:** Interactive  
**Materials Needed:**
- green butcher paper or fabric
- white construction paper
- brown construction paper
- permanent marker
- 15 tasks for students to complete related to the football theme

Football season is just gearing up in September and there is no better way to get in the fall spirit than with a football theme bulletin board. Cover the bulletin board in green paper or fabric and use white strips of paper to mark the yard lines. Create tasks that students need to complete at the bulletin board center to move from one line to the next and list them in a file folder or put them in a football helmet for students to pick from. Cut out small footballs and label them with each child’s name. As a task is completed, the child moves his football down the field. You will be able to quickly see which children are progressing and which ones need to spend more time at the center. You can make the tasks all related to one subject or include a variety of subjects for students to work on. By creating additional task options, students can choose the ones that interest them the most.

**Multiplying With Number Nine**

**Theme:** Multiplication  
**Type Of Board:** Informational  
**Materials Needed:**
- plain fabric or paper in a color that coordinates with your room’s decor
- 11 pairs of inexpensive gloves
- sentence strips
- permanent marker
Learning multiplication facts can be a challenge! Thankfully, the number nine is not only September’s month, but it is also a great multiplication trickster. Teach your students the “finger trick” for multiplying by nine with this fun board. Start by covering the board in plain fabric or sentence strips, of the multiples 9 x 10. Next, hang the pairs of gloves, demonstrating how to fold down each finger to solve the problem. For example, for 9 x 2, the ring finger on the left hand glove would be folded down. The digits to the left of the folded finger would be in the 10’s column, while the fingers to the right would be in the 1’s column. Do this for each problem and place the appropriate sentence strip beneath each pair of gloves.

October
There’s No Crying In Baseball

Theme: Fact Versus Opinion
Type Of Board: Informational
Materials Needed:
- green butcher paper or baseball print fabric
- large white paper to cut a baseball diamond from
- baseball cutout shapes
- permanent markers

Celebrate the World Series by covering your bulletin board in green paper or baseball print fabric. Cut out a baseball diamond from large white paper and place it in the center of the board. Put tips for distinguishing facts in the infield and tips for opinions in the outfield. After discussing the board with your students in a lesson, have them write facts and opinions about a current event on the baseball cutouts. Hang the students’ work in the infield or outfield based on whether it is a fact or an opinion.

Reading Patch

Theme: Reading
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- brown butcher paper
- fall border
- orange construction paper
- pumpkin templates printed on orange copy paper
- a basket
- permanent markers

Celebrate students’ reading achievements by starting a Reading Patch bulletin board near your classroom library. Cover the board in brown paper and outline it with a fall theme border. Place cutout construction paper letters at the top to spell out the title “Reading Patch.” Have a basket below the board on a table or shelf with small cutout pumpkins that have been pre-printed on orange copy paper. Introduce the bulletin board to students and explain that for each book they read, they will be writing the title and author on a pumpkin and hanging it on the board. Set a goal as a class as to how many pumpkins you would like to see in the patch on the last school day in October. When the month is over, take the pumpkins down and count them together to see how many books were read. Students will be motivated to fill up the patch with their paper pumpkins and visitors to your class will be able to see how much your students are reading.
**November**

**Terrific Timeline**

Theme: **History**  
Type Of Board: **Interactive**  
Materials Needed:  
- newspaper  
- thick ribbon  
- timeline cards

Create a timeline of the history of Thanksgiving, the United States, or any time period that the class is studying. Cover the bulletin board in newspaper and attach a thick, two-inch ribbon across the length of the board. Create cards that depict different scenes from the time period being studied and have students hang them in the correct sequence. Not only does this help reinforce the history being taught, but it also shows classroom visitor’s what is being studied. Students can then study one of the events in the sequence and describe how the events leading up to it helped influence what happened, as well as how the event in question influenced the remaining events in the time line.

**Tip:** You can also adapt this idea to cover a science cycle (i.e. the water cycle).

**Really Good Time Saver**

The *Ready-To-Decorate™ My Timeline Poster Set* (item 157480) is the perfect alternative! Have students take turns filling in the timeline as a new event is covered. With 64 posters in each set, this set will be enough to last all year long.

**Family Tree**

Theme: **Genealogy/Family**  
Type Of Board: **Display**  
Materials Needed:  
- green butcher paper or fabric  
- brown construction paper  
- homework instruction sheet

This is a great display bulletin board to use near the fall and winter holidays, as it explores students’ family history. Let the children begin drawing the general outline of the tree in class on a piece of brown construction paper, but assign it as a homework project. Leaves or apples hanging from the tree can represent family members. When the projects are returned, hang them on a bulletin board covered in green paper or fabric for all to see.

**Really Good Time Saver**

Give each student a *Family Tree Craft Kit* (item 701335) to create their professional looking family tree. Not only will the kits make it easier on you, but students and parents will also appreciate that it is easier for them.

**December**

**H.A.M. It Up!**

Theme: **Science — Animal Adaptation**  
Type Of Board: **Interactive**  
Materials Needed:  
- white or brown butcher paper or fabric  
- construction paper  
- sentence strips  
- sticky tack  
- permanent markers  
- file folder  
- animal cutouts

Reinforce the idea of animal adaptations during the cold winter months by creating a fun and interactive bulletin board. Divide the board into three sections and label them “Hibernate,” “Adapt,” and “Migrate.” Have a file folder attached to the bulletin board that contains different animals. Students then use sticky tack or tape to hang the animals under the correct column. When they are finished, they can either self-check using an answer key, or you can check their work for them.
Shape Up

Create a bulletin board using oversized tangram shapes to reinforce the concept of spatial relations. Begin by covering the board in a solid color fabric or paper. Have a set of pictures, created from tangrams, on index cards that have been threaded through a jump-ring. Students pick a card displaying a picture that they would like to make and use the oversized tangrams to create the object. If possible, coordinate the colors of the shapes on the cards to the colors available for the oversized tangrams. Use this as a math center or a free-time center depending on your scheduling needs.

Really Good Time Saver

Instead of having students create shapes on the board itself, use a Tangrams Class Set (item 157442) for students to use while creating the shapes on their table of desk. If you are worried about Tangrams being all over your classroom after the activity, use the Geo Shapes Outline Stampers (item 156615) instead. Students can stamp out their shapes and turn them in for you to grade and display.

January

The Heat Is On

Theme: Physical Fitness And Exercise
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
• white chart paper
• blue chart paper or fabric
• construction paper
• printed fitness facts
• permanent marker
• scissors
• crayons

Track students’ physical activity during the month of January by cutting out a large thermometer from the white chart paper where students can color in their physical activity in 30 minutes increments. To determine how many bars you will need to draw on the thermometer, multiply the number of students in class by 31 days in the month. Place information blurbs about physical fitness around the edges of the bulletin board. Encourage students to track their activity each day and make and use the thermometer. The activity and making goal, negative between students who are very athletic and those who are not is taken away. It is a great way to draw the class together as a community while also encouraging students to get the physical activity that they need to stay healthy.

Variation: Instead of a thermometer, create a track around the bulletin board and have students add footsteps to the board for each 30 minutes of exercise.
Simply Unique

Help melt diversity issues with a bulletin board designed to get students talking more about similarities than differences. Cover the bulletin board with light blue paper or fabric. Hand each student a sheet of white copy paper and ask him or her to describe how their paper is similar to their neighbor’s. Record their answers on the Venn diagram. Next, ask students to fold their paper in half. Some will fold it horizontally and others will fold it vertically. Again, ask students to point out similarities. Instruct them to fold it in half again and cut out a snowflake. After their snowflakes are completed, discuss the similarities and differences. Point out that each snowflake began the same way and that while they may all look different, their similarities outweigh their differences. Hang the snowflakes on the bulletin board and title it, “Beautiful Diversity.”

Tip: This is a great bulletin board to use as a display outside of your classroom door.

Really Good Time Saver

Fargo the snowflakes and use the What We Have In Common Activity Mats (item 159311) or the Ready-To-Decorate™ Top Ten Countdown Activity Mats (item 158230) instead. Hang a piece of light blue fabric as your background and display the completed activity mats. Students will get the same benefit from the activity, but you will have a lot less bulletin board construction time!

February

What’s Outside The Window?

Help melt diversity issues with a bulletin board designed to get students talking more about similarities than differences. Cover the bulletin board with light blue paper or fabric. Hand each student a sheet of white copy paper and ask him or her to describe how their paper is similar to their neighbor’s. Record their answers on the Venn diagram. Next, ask students to fold their paper in half. Some will fold it horizontally and others will fold it vertically. Again, ask students to point out similarities. Instruct them to fold it in half again and cut out a snowflake. After their snowflakes are completed, discuss the similarities and differences. Point out that each snowflake began the same way and that while they may all look different, their similarities outweigh their differences. Hang the snowflakes on the bulletin board and title it, “Beautiful Diversity.”

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February

What’s Outside The Window?

Theme: Diversity
Type Of Board: Display
Materials Needed:
• white copy paper
• light blue chart paper or fabric
• permanent marker
• scissors
• dry erase Venn diagram poster

Help melt diversity issues with a bulletin board designed to get students talking more about similarities than differences. Cover the bulletin board with light blue paper or fabric. Hand each student a sheet of white copy paper and ask him or her to describe how their paper is similar to their neighbor’s. Record their answers on the Venn diagram. Next, ask students to fold their paper in half. Some will fold it horizontally and others will fold it vertically. Again, ask students to point out similarities. Instruct them to fold it in half again and cut out a snowflake. After their snowflakes are completed, discuss the similarities and differences. Point out that each snowflake began the same way and that while they may all look different, their similarities outweigh their differences. Hang the snowflakes on the bulletin board and title it, “Beautiful Diversity.”

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February

What’s Outside The Window?

Theme: Creative Writing
Type Of Board: Informational
Materials Needed:
• brown construction paper
• curtain rod
• curtain
• window box or vase of fake flowers
• writing journals
• sharpened pencils

Turn this bulletin board into a window on creative writing. Create a board that features a closed curtain and have students write about what they might find on the other side. Use construction paper to create a window frame and hang a real curtain from a curtain rod over the “window” to make it seem more authentic. If desired, place a window box or vase filled with artificial flowers on the table in front of the board. Position a basket of writing journals and a cup of sharpened pencils on a table in front of the window, as well. Instruct students to write a story, poem or other creative writing piece related to what they might find on the other side of the closed window.
 Month-By-Month Ideas  
Really Good Bulletin Boards: Making Your Classroom Walls Work For You

Really Good Time Saver
Let students wonder what is behind each door of the **Open-A-Door Writing Prompts Poster** (item 158964) instead of creating a window. Simply cover the board in plain fabric or paper, hang the poster and have students choose doors that they would like to write about. Without ever opening the doors, they can create a story about what is inside. Make this poster work extra-hard for you, by using it in another bulletin board where students open the doors to discover writing prompts. With 50 doors to choose from, the poster will give students a lot of choices while saving you a lot of time.

You’re So Tweet
Play off of the idea of Twitter and have students post 140 random-act-of-kindness messages on cutout bird shapes. Begin by covering the board with blue fabric or paper. Using pre-made letters, label the board, “You’re so Tweet.” When a student does an act of kindness for someone else, the recipient can recognize the effort by posting a “tweet” on the board. Keep the extra birds and markers in a bird’s nest cutout that is attached to the board. Challenge your students to have the board completely covered with random acts of kindness by the end of the month.

**Really Good Time Saver**
Hang one **Tweet A Sweet Note Cards** (item 158381) with each child’s name on the board and have students record each person’s nice deeds on their card. You could also use the compliment cards in the **Really Good Compliment Kit** (item 158415) in place of the bird shapes.

March
**Spring Into New Behavior**
Theme: **Anti-Bullying**  
Type Of Board: **Informational/Display**  
Materials Needed:
- tinfoil
- flower templates printed on colorful paper or flowers made from construction paper
- cutouts of clouds, butterflies, and other spring-related items

Use this bulletin board to have students discuss and pledge to stop bullying. Encourage students to take a stand against bullying and help promote better and more positive choices. Cover the board in tinfoil to create a reflective surface where students can see themselves. Write anti-bullying tips* for students on flower templates or cutouts and hang them on the board. Have students create a pledge to refrain from and help stop bullying when they see it. Write the pledges on the cutout clouds, butterflies, and other spring related shapes. Hang them on the board to complete the spring picture and create an anti-bullying reminder that students will take to heart.

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Theme: **Random Acts Of Kindness**  
Type Of Board: **Display**  
Materials Needed:
- light blue fabric or paper
- medium blue construction paper
- cutout bird shapes
- permanent marker
- manila folder or basket
*Anti-bullying tips that could be included are be respectful, report bullying, and give respect to get respect.

Really Good Time Saver
Let the Stand Up, Speak Out Strategies 8-In-1 Poster Set (item 157406) bring the types of bullying to life for your students. Create an eight week long unit on bullying prevention by rotating the posters on the bulletin board each week. After class discussion, have students jot down examples of the type of bullying being discussed and ways that it can be prevented and hang them on the board to display.

Standardized Testing Review

Theme: Testing Review
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- four different shades of fabric or butcher paper all within the same color family
- construction paper
- manila folders
- review worksheets for four subject areas
- markers

Get ready for Standardized Testing with a bulletin board that is designed to be a review center where students can work during down time or morning work in the classroom. Start by sectioning off the board into four areas. Hang different colored paper or fabric in each section. Label each section with the name of the subject to be reviewed. Include the top four areas that students will be tested on. Create review sheets or copy them from a test review book and place them in folders hanging in each section. When students have completed a review sheet, they can write their name on a construction paper square and hang it in that section. By the time testing arrives, students will be ready to go.

Really Good Time Saver
Instead of taking up a lot of space with this board, use the Paper Pal™ Pocket Chart (item 154404) to house file folders that contain the review lessons or activities that

you would like students to work on. The 8-pocket pocket chart can be hung by its magnetic backing on the side of a tall file cabinet, or from hooks over the back of a classroom closet door.

April
Primary Focus

Theme: Primary Colors
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- white butcher paper
- a large cutout primary color wheel
- yarn in red, blue and yellow
- child-safety scissors
- sticky tack
- old magazines
- basket

Let the littlest learners get hands-on training with interactive bulletin boards in this primary colors display. Cover the board in white paper and place a primary color wheel in the center. Use the different colors of yarn to section off the board in relation to the colors on the wheel. Have a small table set up with old magazines, child-safe scissors and sticky tack. Instruct students to find things in the
Relax And Stay Focused

Theme: Testing/Relaxation
Type Of Board: Informational
Materials Needed:
- plain fabric or butcher paper that matches your classroom decor
- geometric shapes cut from construction paper
- permanent marker
- a class picture

Help ease students’ test-taking anxiety by creating a bulletin board that lists test-taking strategies and ways to ease their stress. Cover the board in plain paper or class picture in the picture, shapes that have stress busters. Things like “Read the question all the way through before answering,” “Take your time,” “Take a deep breath,” and “Roll your shoulders” will help students keep testing in perspective.

May

Magnificent Mail

Theme: Letter Writing
Type Of Board: Informational
Materials Needed:
- fabric or paper of your choice to cover the board
- Friendly Stan, The Friendly Letter Handyman Poster (item 158036)

Get students excited about moving on to the next grade with a letter-writing bulletin board. Cover the board with paper or a fabric of your choice and hang the Friendly Stan, The Friendly Letter Handyman Poster that describes the parts of a letter in the center of the board. Have your students write letters to the grade below them about what they can expect in the next grade. It is a great way to encourage your students to write and will help ease the fears of those moving up. If need be, younger students can draw pictures and dictate messages instead of writing the letters themselves. Be sure to have plenty of paper and sharpened pencils on the table by the bulletin board.

Tip: This is a great board idea for a traveling or smaller bulletin board.

My, How We’ve Grown!

Theme: Student Growth
Type Of Board: Display
Materials Needed:
- white butcher paper or fabric
- photos of each student from the beginning of the year
- photos of each student from April or May
- black poster board cut to look like a camera
- construction paper strips with each students’ name

May is the perfect time to compare how your students have changed and grown throughout the year. Cover the board in plain white paper and cut out a large camera from a piece of black poster board. Hang the camera in the center of the board and place beginning and end-of-the-year pictures of your students around it. This is a great board to display outside the classroom door.
Month-By-Month Ideas
Really Good Bulletin Boards: Making Your Classroom Walls Work For You

Tip: Turn it into a lesson by having students write about what they were feeling on the first day of school and what they have learned throughout the year. Add the essays to the board.

June

Beach Ball Bios

Get to know your summer school or summer camp students with this colorful bulletin board. Cover the board with sand colored paper or fabric. Have students fill in the writing prompts on their beach ball templates and color the sections in. Cut them out and hang them on the bulletin board around the large beach ball cutout that is labeled with the board’s title.

Put On Your Shades

Theme: Five Senses
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- fabric or butcher paper in a color that coordinates with your classroom’s decor
- white poster board
- 10 fabric pouches with drawstring closures that can be hung from pushpins or hooks on the board
- manila folder
- blank answer sheets
- sharpened pencils

Use this fun bulletin board to let students explore how when one sense (vision) is hindered, the other senses compensate for it. Cover the board in paper or fabric that matches your room’s decor. Cut out a large pair of sunglasses from a piece of poster board and hang them in the center of the board. Have a folder with answer sheets attached to the board or placed in a basket beneath it. Hang the ten fabric pouches from pushpins or hooks that are placed around the board. Students must try to guess what is in each pouch based on what they smell, feel and hear when they hold it. Their observations and answers can then be recorded on the blank answer sheets. As a math extension activity, have the class work together to graph the answers.
July

Stay Focused On Behavior Management

Help students remain focused with this behavior modification bulletin board. Choose a small bulletin board near the front of the classroom where it can be seen throughout the day. Cover the board in plain fabric or paper. Cut out a large pair of sunglasses from the poster board and hang them in the center of the board. They should be large enough to cover most of the board. Throughout the day, when you catch students focused on their work, reward them with a colorful, round sticker. At the end of the day, students can take turns filling in the sunglasses with the stickers that they earned. When the sunglasses are filled in, the class can be rewarded with an ice cream party or other special treat. The constant reinforcement of good behavior and choices will help students remember to stay focused.

Ice Cream Cone Multiplication

Theme: Math — Multiples Of 12
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
• ice cream print or plain material
• 6 manila folders
• colorful construction paper
• permanent marker

Cover the board with an ice cream print fabric. Cut out a dozen ice cream cones from manila folders. On each cone, write a multiple of 12 (i.e. 12, 24, 36, 48, etc.). Next, cut out scoops of ice cream from colorful construction paper. Each cone will need two scoops, so cut out 24 shapes. On each scoop write one number from each multiplication problem that corresponds to each cone. If you are sticking to the 12’s times table, you will end up with a dozen of the scoops numbered “12” and the other dozen numbered 1 – 12. Create a bowl-shaped pocket to store the scoops in. During center-time, students can complete the board to practice their multiplication skills.

Tip: You can use multiples of any number based on your students’ needs and skill levels.
Holiday/Themed Bulletin Boards

Sometimes it is fun and/or necessary to have a bulletin board that revolves around a specific holiday or theme. When those times arise, it is nice to have ideas to fall back on other than the traditional month ideas. The different holidays/themes below will help you get started.

Back-To-School:
Who Am I?

Theme: Getting To Know You
Type Of Board: Display
Materials Needed:
- fabric or butcher paper to match the classroom decor
- “getting to know you” questionnaires
- a digital camera
- photo paper

Get to know your students, and help them get to know one another, with this beginning of the school year bulletin board. Have each student fill out a questionnaire asking them about their likes and dislikes. Take a picture of each child and print it out on photo paper. Have students talk about themselves in a large group discussion and then hang their questionnaires and photos on the bulletin board. This is a great board for the hallway outside your classroom too!

Really Good Time Saver
Forget about the digital camera and printing photos when you let students draw pictures of themselves with the Do You Know Me? Who Am I? Activity Set (item 109848). Perfect for displaying information about each student and turning the bulletin board into a guessing game!

Fire Safety
Fire Safety Starts With You

Theme: Fire Safety
Type Of Board: Informational
Materials Needed:
- white butcher paper
- flame border cut from red construction paper
- class picture
- construction paper
- permanent markers
- yarn

In most states, fire safety lessons are part of each district’s curriculum. While your school may have a local fire department come and give the main lesson, creating a fire safety bulletin board is also a great way to reinforce the important life saving skills that your students need to know. Begin by covering the board in white paper and placing a flame shape border cut from red paper around the edges. In the center, place a picture of your class surrounded by the phrase, “Fire Safety Starts With You!” Create a web of fire safety tips that branch out, but that are connected to the center picture. Include tips about everything from an escape plan at home to “Stop, Drop, and Roll.”

Halloween
Candy Graphing

Theme: Graphing
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- orange butcher paper or fabric
- a bag of wrapped, mixed candy
- graph paper
- sharpened pencils
- construction paper
Holiday/Themed Bulletin Boards
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Candy graphing for Halloween? What could be better! Cover the board with orange fabric or paper. Hang the mixed candy all over the board for the students to count and sort. If you are worried about students eating the candy, take it out and just hang the wrappers on the board instead. Give students the task of counting the candy and creating different types of graphs. Bar graphs, pie graphs and pictographs are all appropriate.

Really Good Time Saver
Save time copying by breaking out the **Graphing Dry Erase Board Set** (item 156942) and letting students complete the graphs all in one spot. Not only will the boards be perfect for this activity, but they can be used again and again throughout the year.

Thanksgiving
Turkey Math

Theme: **Math Facts**
Type Of Board: **Interactive**
Materials Needed:
- orange or white fabric or butcher paper
- construction paper: brown, orange, yellow, red
- permanent marker
- laminator or clear contact paper

Reinforce the concept of fact families with this fun, interactive math bulletin board. Cover the board with orange or white fabric or paper. Create a list of fact families (addition/subtraction or multiplication/division) that you would like to have students practice. Cut out turkey body shapes from brown construction paper and write the numbers in each fact family on a turkey body using black marker. Laminate them and hang them around the board at a height where students will be able to reach them. Staple or tack the turkeys so that students will be able to slip their feather answers into the turkey’s back. Using colorful construction paper, cut out at least four feathers per turkey per child. Students will then be tasked with using the numbers on the turkeys to write the addition/subtraction or multiplication/division facts and tucking them in each turkey. A quick answer key can help them self-check, or you can check their work yourself.

Winter Holidays
Present Story Starters

Theme: **Creative Writing**
Type Of Board: **Interactive**
Materials Needed:
- wrapping paper
- construction paper
- bows
- magazines or ads from toy stores
- glue
- writing journals
- sharpened pencils

Inside each wrapped present is a mystery. What will students find in the presents on the bulletin board? Cover the bulletin board with wrapping paper. Create construction paper presents with a cutout door that reveals a picture of something you have cut out from a magazine or advertisement. Write a clue about what is inside on each tag that hangs from the presents. Students can then make guesses about what is under the present on the wall and write about what they think is inside. Use this as a creative writing prompt, poetry starter or an exercise in making educated guesses.

100th Day of School
Look Who Reached 100!

Theme: **100th Day Of School/Motivation**
Type Of Board: **Display**
Materials Needed:
- fabric or butcher paper in a color that matches your classroom’s decor
- digital camera
- photo paper
- construction paper
- cutout letters
- permanent marker

Inside each wrapped present is a mystery. What will students find in the presents on the bulletin board? Cover the bulletin board with wrapping paper. Create construction paper presents with a cutout door that reveals a picture of something you have cut out from a magazine or advertisement. Write a clue about what is inside on each tag that hangs from the presents. Students can then make guesses about what is under the present on the wall and write about what they think is inside. Use this as a creative writing prompt, poetry starter or an exercise in making educated guesses.
Often, as teachers, we overlook the importance of a bulletin board that does nothing more than celebrate our students. The 100th Day of School is a great, mid-year celebration that gives us that opportunity. The week before the 100th Day of School, take digital pictures of all of your students and print them out. Cover the bulletin board in fabric or paper that matches the classroom’s decor and label it “Look Who Reached 100!” Mount the students’ pictures to pieces of construction paper and label each with the child’s name. Hang it on the bulletin board and make a fuss over how proud you are of each child. For some students, you may be their only source of encouragement and praise.

**Really Good Time Saver**

The 100th Day Certificate Of Achievement (item 126531) have all the glitz and color that you want to shower on your students. Simply fill in their names, hang them on the board and make a fuss about how proud you are of them.

**Valentine’s Day**

**Kindness Counts**

Valentine’s Day is the perfect time to reinforce positive behavior and random acts of kindness. Create a bulletin board designed to remind students how simple acts can have big results. Start by covering the bulletin board with any colorful, Valentine’s Day theme fabric or plain paper. Ask a classroom volunteer to cut out about 100 hearts from pink, red, and white construction paper and place them in a basket or file folder pocket with a permanent marker. Encourage students to record things that others do for them throughout the day that have made a difference. Did a neighbor lend them a pencil? If so, they could write that on a paper heart and stick it to the bulletin board. If you would rather hang the hearts yourself, have them put completed hearts in a separate basket. By the end of the month, you will have a bulletin board filled with acts of kindness that have made a difference in the lives of your students.

**President’s Day**

**How Would You Say It?**

With Abraham Lincoln’s birthday falling during the month of February, you have a unique opportunity to challenge your older elementary and middle school students with the Gettysburg Address. This simple bulletin board asks them to rewrite the Gettysburg Address in their own
words. Cover the bulletin board with white paper and hang a poster board with a copy of the Gettysburg Address in the center of it. If you have postcards or photographs of Gettysburg, hang them around the edge of the board. In a file folder pocket, put copies of the speech so that students can have them in front of them while rewriting it in their own words. Use the bulletin board as a starting point for a class discussion about what the speech did and how it changed, if at all, the course of the nation.

**Dr. Seuss’ Birthday/Read Across America Day**

**Book Birthday Presents**

**Theme:** Community Service/Reading  
**Type Of Board:** Informational/Interactive  
**Materials Needed:**  
- white butcher paper or material  
- cutout Dr. Seuss hat with the top of the hat open  
- construction paper  
- dust jackets from children's books  
- a sample book donation letter  
- a smaller cutout of Dr. Seuss' hat  
- large box for collecting books

Use Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Day to kick-start a book drive for a local shelter, hospital, or even the school's library. Cover the board in white paper or fabric and place a large Dr. Seuss style hat in the center. Attach dust jackets from children's books to the board to give the illusion that they are falling into the top of the hat. In the lower left corner of the board, have a sample letter that children can copy to solicit book donations from family members and family friends. In the lower right corner, hang a smaller, plain cutout of a Dr. Seuss style hat that can be filled in to track how many books have been collected. As students bring in books, have them color in the lines on the hat and place their books in a large box below the bulletin board.

**Really Good Time Saver**

Place the Giant Cat In The Hat Cut-Out Bulletin Board Set (item 157637) in the center of the bulletin board atop plain white paper. For each book that is brought in for donation, hang a Dr. Seuss™ The Cat's Hat Paper Cut-Outs (item 158769) in the board. Challenge your class to fill the board with hats!

**Spring**

**Perfectly Poetic**

**Theme:** Poetry/Writing  
**Type Of Board:** Display  
**Materials Needed:**  
- green butcher paper or fabric  
- artificial flowers  
- parchment paper  
- students' poems

Let the beauty of spring inspire your students in this bulletin board that is perfect for the new season. Have children gather their coats, grab their poetry journals and head outside. Ask them to sit quietly on the playground or at the school garden to listen to the sounds, sights and smells of nature around them. Have them write adjectives to describe their experience. Once back indoors, use those adjectives to help create haikus. Write the good copy on a sheet of fancy parchment paper. Cover the bulletin board with green butcher paper or fabric and staple the poems to the board. Finish it with a border of artificial ivy or flowers.
End-Of-The-Year

Lost And Found

Theme: Creative Writing
Type Of Board: Interactive
Materials Needed:
- white or brown butcher paper or fabric
- any lost and found items on hand
- a variety of miscellaneous items that can be hung on the board
- manila folder
- pushpins
- laminated instruction card
- lined notebook paper

This fun, interactive bulletin board is a great way to make students more aware of the things they leave behind and how different things can be connected. Chances are that at the end of the year there will be some things left in the class lost and found box. Unclaimed mittens, a lonely hair clip and even a stray shoe are perfect tools for this bulletin board display.

Cover the bulletin board in plain paper and title it “Lost and Found.” Staple a pocket folder at the bottom of the board to store papers that the students will need for the activity. Using pushpins, randomly hang the class lost and found items on the board. Then, cover the rest of the board with other colorful objects, such as: a pencil, a shoelace, and a toy rubber duck. Continue hanging random items until the board is covered in a cavalcade of color and visual interest. In the folder, place a laminated instruction card and lined notebook paper. The instructions should read something like this:

Welcome to the Lost and Found!
Your task today is to pick five random objects and incorporate them into a humorous, creative story. Use the paper in the folder to write your rough draft. When you have finished your rough draft, place it [wherever you have students place their writing].

You will be amazed at the clever stories children can weave when given the opportunity to do so with this end of the year activity board!

Really Good Time Saver
Hanging up all of the lost and found items can take forever! Instead, place them all in a set of Large Rectangle Book Baskets In Primary Colors (item 128968). The directions can remain the same, but students can select the items from the basket instead. This will make it much easier for you to clean up at the end of the year!