

SpotLight our Jaguars

The Why

The purpose of SPOTlight our Jaguars is to honor our students in a way they may not be used to, for exhibiting Jaguar Pride at LBJ Early College High School. SPOTlighting student behavior allows for students to be viewed in a different light.

Project description

Any student enrolled at LBJ ECHS was able to be nominated by any staff member at LBJ Campus. There was no limit on how many times a student could be nominated. Initiative was sent out to all faculty and staff through e-mail explaining the process and a visual flyer. Winners were announced at our campus' fine arts department event at the end of the school year.

Project Details

18 students nominated,
3 Jaguars spotlighted,
9 nominators



22 Incentive prizes

During the Spring 2021 semester students were nominated and we were able to give out a total of 22 incentives, nomination blurb, and certificate.



Summary

During the announcement of the initiative to students, I observed a visible difference in student's affect. They were all very excited to hear that a teacher nominated each of them for an award that highlighted Jaguar Behavior. The reactions were all positive from every student who received their nomination.

Due to the pandemic there were instances where I was able to deliver the awards to the parents of the students who were selected by the teacher body. It was a great privilege to connect with the student's parents to let them know their student was nominated for an award during such a difficult year. The responses of teachers and staff as they listened to what their child was awarded for and given an incentive was a game changer.

Success

An 11th grade student who was nominated and selected for Spot the Jag Award stated, " This is the first thing I was ever nominated for, like ever." This student was excited to discover her teacher nominated her and to receive incentives was an added bonus.

Challenge

During this particular school year, we experienced difficulties in presenting the awards and nomination blurbs to students each grading period as many of the student body engaged less in person learning that ever before. Many students engaged in either 100 percent virtual learning or hybridized model of in person/ remote education.

This in turn made it challenging to announce winners every grading period as there were not many frequent and consistent grade level assemblies on the campus. To be more thoughtful and solution oriented, I communicated with LBJ's Lead Counselor and was able to announce the winners at a campus wide school event held in the month of may in conjunction with our Fine Arts department. Students who were nominated were sent a special invitation to pick up their awards.

How did the grant funds support your project?

The funds awarded to this project made it possible to utilize incentives for all of the students nominated for the SpotLight Our Jaguars Award Initiative. With the funds provided we were able present to students to help bridge student and teacher positive relationships and ultimately bring joy to our Jaguars.

A hope I have after this grant-funded project

I am hopeful that the words of students' teachers will be impactful to increase positive relationships between student and teachers. Students who are not always recognized for academics or attendance do not always have positive relationships with the adults on their campus. Student reactions from the initiative definitely were observed.

Catarina Silva, Program Manager, LBJ High School