

Merit System and Merit Store



Both POSITIVE and NEGATIVE incentives are useful in motivating students. Congratulations slips, Honor Roll, a privilege area, field trips, praise, an awards program, and green dot incentives are all positive motivations. Many schools add a program of MERITS—an effective positive balance for demerits. Merits provide tangible rewards for good actions and traits in students. Merits are easily given on a daily basis. However, you may want to add weekly and monthly incentives.

Suggested ways to earn merits and suggested numbers to award:

Daily

1. No demerits per day (5)
2. Perfectly scored PACE (25)
3. A caring deed done spontaneously (25)
4. Perfect goal check (5)
5. Extra Scripture memory (5 per verse)
6. Checking the mailbox (2)
7. Emptying the trash (2)
8. Washing the lunchroom tables (5)

Weekly

9. No demerits per week with perfect attendance (25)
10. Perfect goal check (25)
11. Monthly Scripture memory recited prorated by week: 100—1st week, 75—2nd week, 50—3rd week, 25—4th week
12. Homework no more than two nights in one week (10)
13. Homework no more than one night in one week (20)
14. No homework in one week (30)
15. Demonstration of weekly Godly character trait (5)

Monthly

16. No demerits per month with perfect attendance (300)
17. Academic balance by the third week (200)
18. Perfect goal check (300)

More Opportunities

19. Returning parent envelope on time (10)
20. Attaining 1,000 Club status (1,000—50; 2,000—100; 3,000—150)
21. Completing goals on a short school day (20)
22. Saying multiplication facts in a specified time period (5)
23. Birthday—include June, July, and August at the beginning of the year (25)
24. Tidying up the scoring station (2)
25. Taking messages to the office (2)
26. Winning a coloring contest (100, 50, 25)
27. Sword drill (5 per Scripture)

Suggested merit sale options:

1. Merit Store (keep well stocked)
 - Display items on a bulletin board with price tags
 - Arrange on a table grouped by price
 - Use a separate room as your store
2. Auction (at end of year to clean out Merit Store)
3. Garage sale (use donated items)

Creative ways to obtain merit items:

1. Have parents donate
 - Monetary gifts or “gently used” items
 - Coupons to visit their businesses, farms, etc.
 - Items from dollar stores, outlets, yard sales, etc.
2. Make the Merit Store a yearly budget item
3. Obtain donated items from local businesses

Exciting items to include in your Merit Store:

1. School supplies
2. Snack items or homemade baked goods individually wrapped, including some sugar-free choices
3. Educational games and small toys
4. Gift items for others (Mother’s Day, Dad’s birthday, Valentine’s Day, etc.)
5. Gift certificates (many fast food restaurants will donate coupons for free kids’ meals)
6. Free passes to your supervised library, multimedia center, activity area, or game room
7. Coupons for extended break or activity time
8. Certificates for lunch with the pastor, ice cream with the principal, shopping with a supervisor, sports activity with the coach, etc. Be creative.