

# Teachers Guide

Just Imagine . . .

Try these imaginary schools to get your students brainstorming for theme ideas.

## Need a Theme? Practice Makes Perfect

One way to explore theme possibilities with staff members is to create an imaginary school. This method, developed by Laura Schaub, Director of the Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association, is most successful if a group of three to five students work on the scenario. Have the students develop the theme, an explanation of the theme, the organizational plan, and describe the visual link their theme suggests. Allow the groups only 30 to



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45 minutes of planning time, then have each group share their theme development plan. The groups should come up with

ideas that are different, creative and usable. Strengthen this activity by giving students additional time for visual development of their theme and for writing some actual theme copy. Two scenarios are provided for you here, but a fun variation would be to have each group of students create a scenario for one of the other groups to use for developing a theme.

## Imaginary Is More Fun

"But there was something special about the imaginary school," summer staff members complain when they begin to examine their own school. They must be convinced that each school has a unique story waiting to be told every year and that they — the staff members — are the only ones who can do it. Staff members have to find the heart of the year and build a theme around it.

School name:

School address:

Physical location:

School colors:

School mascot:

School size:

Anniversary:

Event:

Any changes:

## OCEANSIDE

100 Oceanside Way

On a hill overlooking the beach and the bay (any coastal state)

Blue, silver and white

Dolphin

450 students, 30 teachers, and two principals

School and yearbook are

12 years old

New, stricter dress code

New, more challenging curriculum (more time in core classes)

Ten new teachers

School name:

School address:

Physical location:

School colors:

School mascot:

School size:

Anniversary:

Event:

Any changes:

## CENTRAL

300 Washington Street

A block from main street on a main highway through town.

Red, black and white

Bear

350 students, 25 teachers, and one principal

School building is 100 years old, but has been a middle school only 10 years. Yearbook has only been around for five years.

Nothing that we know of New windows, air conditioning, heating, carpet, fresh paint and some new furniture.

— Jo Anne Graham is a National Trainer and former adviser from Ardmore, Oklahoma.

## FONTS

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