



100% FAT FREE/SUGAR FREE REWARDS

Many school districts are banning candy and treats in the cafeteria and in the classroom because of concerns with obesity in children. So what can we do instead of giving out lollipops and other sweet treats? How would you like to give your students a 100% fat free and sugar free reward that they'll love and you'll have no wrappers to throw away?

Pay Your Students

For good work, give the students a "PAPER COIN TOKENS" to collect and use as raffle tickets. At the end of the year, the tickets can be drawn for a chance to win "fabulous prizes." I purchase a couple of grand prizes (gift certificates to the mall, music store, or book store) and I buy books and other small items. You can get some inexpensive items from the mail order party catalogues, the local Dollar Store, or watch for sale and clearance items throughout the year. You could also ask businesses to donate small items. Another variation to the raffle idea would be to use the coin images as "money" and students can BUY items of their choice from your "store" at the end of the year or term.

How to Make Money

You can make your own tickets/tokens with your favorite ancient coin images. The ACE, Inc. website lists the names of those who give permission to use their coin images for non-commercial educational use. I printed enlarged images of ancient coins on cardstock about 2 1/2 inches by 2 1/2 inches. Copy and paste the image 3 across and 4 down for a total of 12 coins on a page. For best photocopying results, pick a clear image with a white background. I used Dr. Tom Buggie's Trajan image at <http://tjbuggey.ancients.info/> (See image above courtesy of Dr. Tom Buggie and ACE, Inc.)

You can print the obverse only and leave the back of the card blank and have the students write their names on the tickets. You can also print the cards with the obverse on one side of the page and the reverse on the other side and have the students write their names over the coin with a gel pen or a marker.

You could also print different coins and information about the coins to make it even more educational. You could change the coin tokens at different times of the year depending on what you are studying at the time or the time of year. Use an image of Medusa when you are studying mythology. Use a coin with a deer on it during Christmas. If you have computers and printers in your classroom, you could also have

the students design the "Coin cards" at the beginning of the year and make them for the teacher to use.

Cashing In

On the day of the big drawing, someone will tell you they had five tickets but lost three. I do remind the children to make sure they write their names on their tickets immediately. I tell my students they have to be responsible for their own tickets. Tell them to hold onto their "money" and you won't replace lost "cash." (tickets/tokens.) "If you lose it, you can't use it." Students like to keep their tickets in their folders, but you could also collect the "coins" in a container or (BANK) throughout the year, so they don't get lost. You could add to the fun by using a "Roman style" urn to hold the coin tickets. When you see the coin tokens at the end of the year, you'll be proud to see what a WEALTH of knowledge you have given your students!

Zee Ann Poerio
St. Louise de Marillac School
310 McMurray Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15241
ZeePoerio@aol.com