



# 30 Tips and Tricks to Get You Through the Year



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1. I hate taking roll. We do buddy check. Everyone has a buddy. I say “3,2,1 buddy check!” Everyone yells out for their buddy. If their buddy doesn’t respond we write their name on the board. If their name is on the board at the end of class they are marked absent.
2. Send students to CASL, take notes, and report out to your ASB. We don’t have enough money to send all of our students. We never send Seniors. They are two months away from leaving. We prioritize sending Juniors, followed by Sophomores and then Freshies.
3. Go visit other ASB’s and then have your students do a presentation to your class. We have gone to Temecula Valley, Carlsbad, Murietta Valley, San Pasqual, La Costa Canyon... Get great ideas from your fellow schools. Most of what we do here at Mt. Carmel I have taken from other schools.
4. Send your Advisor to the CADA conference. Tons of ideas that you can bring back to your school. It’s also the best place to get answers to questions that nobody else on your campus is going to ask.
5. **PRIORITIZE**, Prioritize, prioritize. This is one of the first things I learned at an ASB Advsiior camp and it is very important. You need to understand what needs to happen now vs. what can wait for another day. I never go home with everything done. There is just too much to do. You **MUST** learn how to prioritize and teach this concept to your kids.
6. Ask the kids what do you want? A Director or an Advisor. The Director is in charge and runs things. I prefer to be the Advisor and let students be in charge as much as I possibly can. From time to time you will need to tell your kids you are putting on the Directors hat and this is what needs to happen.
7. Hire Keith Hawkins. He is the best speaker ever. He talks to our Freshman at the beginning of the year and to our Seniors just before graduation.
8. Always buy more than what you need. Example. You need 1000 dixie cups for the dance. Buy 2000. You will never get yelled at for having too many. Run out at the dance and make people wait while you send an A.P. to Vons (or your wife)? You will hear about it for years. Left over cups will always be used later. Same thing for pins, sticky notes, paper towels, butcher paper, etc. etc.
9. Give-a-way shirts. Every student gets a red shirt with a different design each year. We call them our Red Out shirts. We wear them as a school to the first pep rally of the year. We wear them on Fridays. We wear them at games and events. One of the best things we do at MC.

10. Clap it out! Do you have a hard time with ASB kids leaving early, leaving before an event ends, or leaving before everything has been cleaned up? Then clap it out. My students know that no ASB event is over until we have clapped it out. They don't get credit for being at the event if they miss clap it out time (unless they have checked with me before hand). Example. Dance is over. We start cleaning up. At 11:00 we meet in the middle of the gym to clap it out. I ask is this done, is this done, is this done. If no, we spread out and go finish what needs to be done then come back. If yes, the person in charge of the dance says, "Hands up, ready, 1, 2, 3, Sundevils. When the student says ready everyone claps three times. We then take a picture for attendance and everyone knows they are free to go because we have "Clapped it out."
11. We make a video about how to play the lunchtime game and then we play it on the student broadcast. This way students know what the game is on Friday at lunch and more of them will come out to play.
12. The day after an event, we write up our positives and deltas for the event. The next year, we read the positives and deltas before we do the event again. We try and do the positives again and eliminate the deltas.
13. The kindergarten sticker board hangs in the room and helps keep students accountable.
14. Have Pep Rallies on Monday. CIF games and sports teams can't use the gym on Sundays. This gives you the entire day to decorate the gym. When your kids tell you there will be no excitement on a Monday just laugh at them. Good pep rallies always have loud crowds. Nobody ever says it's Monday, lets not cheer.
15. Homecoming week with float building, fire works, the game and dance, can make for a very long week. Anytime we can we put a week between the game and dance. This makes life easier on everyone. We have done this 3 or 4 times over the last couple of years and look to do it again next year.
16. Have written float building rules. We read over them before we start each year and have copies posted in the float building area if questions come up. Our referees also have copies on their clipboards.
17. At the end of each Trimester, students write a Mr. C letter. There are normally 5 questions. Students can tell me how their job is going, how they think ASB is going, what they have done in their job, and things that they have done outside of their position that I may not know about.
18. Honor Roll pencils. We pass them out at the beginning of the 2nd and 3rd Trimester. Easy recognition.
19. We have three ASB mottos. THEY NEVER CHANGE. We feel that these are important and are at the core of everything we do. If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well. We set the pace. Find a way.
20. On the first day of school, every student has a sticky note with their name on it and a nice message from ASB. They are hung up at the front of the school. We have seniors that tell us how they have all four sticky notes from their years at MC.
21. Our students make a new Red Sea poster for every home football game. They love making it.
22. Team up with your school broadcast if you have one. Ours is live twice a week. Our Seniors say it's the number one way they get information about what is going on at school.

23. At the first home football game of the year, we line up any student that comes to the game at 6:15 and we allow them to run through the tunnel and out onto the football field. They then go up into the stands for the game. Two years ago we had just over 1000 students participate (school of 1850 students).
24. We like to “Shine the Light” on people at our school. Our number one way to do this is by making videos that we show on the Sundevil Broadcast. We make videos for: student of the month, tireless teacher, athlete of the month, club spotlight, and performing arts. These videos will play once a month starting in October.
25. Take kids and go watch other school rallies if you can. Copy what they do well. We have seen rallies at Temecula Valley, Westview, Rancho Bernardo, Carlsbad, La Costa Canyon and Poway.
26. We had our homecoming dance outside and we may never go back in the gym again. It was awesome. Rootbeer floats. Big screen movie. 12 man foosball table. Photo area with 1000 balloon back drop. Floats out on display for students to take pictures with.
27. Get a connex box (or two) to store all your supplies or items that you only use once a year.
28. We have a battery powered flat bed cart that only adults are allowed to drive.
29. Get a Canva.com account. This is our number one online advertising tool. You can make awesome advertisements that you can have printed or posted online. Everyone of our ASB students knows how to use it.
30. Build an Art board. This is a great workstation to create posters and it has built in storage.
31. Extra Credit. You think you are ready? Try doing a school wide Lip Dub. Good luck.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ouPGNwgibs>