

September Dean's Checklist

A Practical School Culture Guide



September sets the tone for the entire school year. For Deans and student life leaders, it's the crucial month to reinforce belonging, connection, and shared culture. This checklist offers practical steps you can implement right away to ensure your school community thrives. Use it as a guide to track your progress and spark conversations with your team.

September School Culture Checklist

- Revisit orientation themes in advisory or morning meeting.
- Host a mid-month faculty huddle: "How are we showing culture, not just talking about it?"
- Assign deans/advisors to do a "lunch scan" twice a week to spot isolated students.
- Create a simple tracking sheet for new students—who's thriving, who needs extra connection.
- Review discipline or behavior data from the first month: Any trends that need attention?
- Send a short survey to students about how connected they feel (baseline for belonging).
- Encourage one "culture-carrying" faculty story at weekly meetings (small wins matter).

Looking Ahead

As September comes to a close, take time to reflect on what worked and what needs adjustment. Carry these insights into October, continuing to strengthen belonging and culture as the year unfolds