

As we are in unchartered times, we must realize that we will get through this. When we return to school it would be great to welcome everyone back with a Flag Ceremony that celebrates the events that we are missing during the closure (St. Patrick's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, and Easter Egg Hunt). With so much time apart from one another and the stress of our current situation, we will need an uplifting and bonding activity. As we near the reopening of school we will have to evaluate the true context of our climate and the needs of our students to assure that the flag ceremony is appropriate for the climate that we return to.

Below you will find tips for planning a Pep rally that I gathered from <https://tv.varsity.com/>

I would like you to use your experience from planning past Flag Ceremonies and the following tips to create a Welcome Back Outline. This ceremony should include several messages and various activities that engage the student body. Once the outline is created, give expanded details on what we want to include in the ceremony. Feel free to contact me with questions as you go along and email me [h.cooley@yubacitycharter.com](mailto:h.cooley@yubacitycharter.com) your draft copy.

Have no fear — our top 10 pep rally prep tips are here!

## 1. Plan Ahead

Be sure everyone knows the order in which things will happen at the pep rally.

Make a "script" so the DJ, performers, and band are on the same page. The more time you put into decorating and planning, the more successful and exciting the event will be.

Hang signs and banners leading into the gym or stadium to build the anticipation and to hype up the rally!

## **2. Create A Theme**

Fans and student body members love to dress the part and participate — especially if they are given a heads up and a task to complete. The week before the pep rally, make signs advertising the theme and action items.

Playing the tigers? Plan a jungle-themed pep rally and ask the crowd to wear safari-themed gear.

## **3. Involve Everyone**

Make this a school-wide event! Involve the K-12, staff and band in your pep rally prep. Don't forget to get your student body involved, too.

Are there games you can play? Any action cheers or chants communicate before the event?

## **4. Polish Your Routine**

If you are performing, you will need to make sure you clean and practice any performances so they are ready for the big day. Perform skills you feel comfortable hitting 10 out of 10 times.

Remember, you aren't being scored for this so have fun!

## **5. Practice Makes Perfect**

Practice any special activities that will happen at the pep rally.

Does your school award a spirit stick? If so, go over the chant that goes along with it. Make sure you are ready to lead the crowd like the vets.

## 6. Find The Perfect Outfit

Whether it's your uniform or a special outfit that fits a theme, make sure the whole team is on the same page and looks like a cohesive group. Don't forget to involve the band, mascot, and student body as well!

## 7. Block Out Your Formations

Where do you stand during certain pep rally activities? How do you stand? Which way will you face during your routine? Rehearsal ahead of time will make for a smooth event.

## 8. Go With The Flow

Maybe the band plays the fight song early or they didn't plan on playing it and now they are. No stress, join in and dance along! Pay attention to your coach and captains and see what they are doing and follow their lead. When things do not go exactly as planned, you need to keep going, as the audience does not know there was a mistake unless you signal them that something went wrong.

## 9. Find Someone To Play Paparazzi

Videos and pictures of your team at the pep rally are great for social media and building your brand as a team. Select a member of the team to video and snap photos for the yearbook.

## 10. Remember You Are A Spirit Leader

Your job is to keep the crowd engaged and pumped. Move around, show your spirit, and stay engaged. It's not a good idea to grab your things and beat the crowd out of the ceremony — remember that you are the *host* of the event.