

2025 BEST GIFTS FOR TEACHERS LIST RELEASED BY THE PHILLY SERVICE AWARD

PSA, THE EXPERTS IN HIGH SCHOOL CIVIC LEADERSHIP SHARE WHAT TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR THIS YEAR

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-- During the holidays, teachers

commonly receive a large number of

candles and mugs each year. To help families find meaningful ways to show appreciation to educators, the [Philly Service Award](#) is sharing the gifts teachers truly value—items they ask for on their classroom wish list fulfillment program.

Teachers nationwide spend nearly \$895 of their own money annually according to AdoptaClassroom.org on classroom supplies. Through the Philly Service Award's innovative \$1,000 classroom wish fulfillment program, faculty members have been able to purchase essential and inspiring tools that enrich learning while reducing out-of-pocket costs. Below along with the 10 most popular items, consider gifts with positive messages that support mental health.



2025 Top 10 Teacher Holiday Wish List Items

1. Bluetooth Speakers, Earbuds/Headphones, or Portable Power Bank Chargers
2. Cricut Machines or Cricut Accessories
3. Mini Desktop Fridge
4. Monthly Planner or Classroom Calendar
5. Most Often Asked for Games & Activity Tools:
 - Tangrams 330 Puzzles
 - Math Game Tower
 - Connect Four
 - Jenga
 - Chat Chains
 - Name 5
 - Tic Tac Toe
6. Interactive Books & Creative Activities:
 - Life or Death: Interactive Survival Adventure Book

Anxiety Relief, Positive Thinking, Motivational Coloring Books

"How to Paint with Acrylics" instructional book

7. Pencil/Pen Cases Filled with High-Quality Writing Tools

8. Selected Books for Teens & Young Adults:

Black Girls Must Be Magic

All That It Ever Meant

We Are All So Good at Smiling

A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow

Within These Wicked Walls

We Were Never Here

Tokyo Ever After

9. Desk Lamps and Floor Lamps

10. Organizational Shelves, Bins, and Storage Solutions

"These are not just gifts—they're items used every day to support students academically, emotionally, and creatively," said Founder Shelly Fisher. "Thoughtful items like these enhance the entire classroom experience."

A First-of-Its-Kind Model that Proactively Supports Civic Leadership With Philadelphia High School Students

The Philly Service Award is a first-of-its-kind model that proactively supports student civic entrepreneurship and leadership. PSA ensures every high school in Philadelphia is offered a \$1,000 grant to support student-led community service projects to improve their neighborhoods. Faculty guide these projects, helping students build leadership, empathy, and real-world problem-solving skills. Their wish list fulfillment program serves as recognition of the faculty's continued commitment.

At year's end, schools put their efforts on display as they compete for the Philly Service Award Impact Awards, with total prize dollars reaching \$145,000 going back into the Philadelphia schools. This competition recognizes creativity, impact, and student empowerment.

Holiday Giving That Makes a Real Difference

As families shop for holiday gifts, the Philly Service Award encourages choosing items that bring joy, reduce teachers' personal expenses, and support vibrant, creative classrooms.

"To honor teachers this season, give gifts that reflect their dedication and help them continue doing what they do best," said Executive Director Jen Jones. "A thoughtful, practical gift can have a lasting impact."

For more information about the Philly Service Award or questions about school-led civic engagement, please contact Jen Jones – Jen@phillyserviceaward.com.

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The Philly Service Award

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