

LEAVE THE CUPCAKE BEHIND

Ideas for snack-free school celebrations.

Planning to provide snacks for free at your next event, or just looking for non-food items to sell instead of traditional concessions? Here are some ideas to get you started. Don't forget to check local discount stores, warehouse stores, household store clearance bins, and online vendors for bargains!

Novelty pens and pencils

The options for fun are endless—look for ones that are giant-size, with colored ink or multiple tips, or decorated (pom-poms or glitter, for example). Find ones printed with minions or another popular character, or to match your event theme, e.g. palm trees for a pool party or footballs for tailgate night. Scented and school logo pens and pencils are also favorites.



Pencil sharpeners

There are ones that look like cars, others that have openings for more than one size of pencil, and they're useful! A great choice to include if you're also going to stock pencils for sale at your event.



Keychains

Sports team logos or general sports items like soccer balls and basketballs never go out of style. Find alphabet keychains so attendees can get one with the first letter of their first or last name. You might also look for ones that reflect popular characters or your event theme or that are functional, such as with an attached penlight or flash drive.

Stickers

Highlight community spirit with stickers that show the school logo or town name. Popular characters and sports theme stickers are always easy to find. Novelty stickers—for instance sparkly, fuzzy or puffy texture, or color-change—can add a little extra pizzazz. Or look for larger decal stickers for car windows.

Notepads

Small pads are easy to carry around, and lots of fun shapes are available to complement the season or your event theme. Some have cartoon characters or funny quotes printed on the inside pages.





Erasers

Have an assortment available and sell them as a package deal so kids can mix and match what they want to get. Food shapes like doughnuts and cupcakes are especially fun (and allergy-free!), but you might also look for animals (especially if it will reflect your school mascot) or other shapes to match your event theme.

Bubbles

You can find these with soap wands big and small, or containers shaped like stars or other items. Some have lanyards to wear as necklaces, serving double-duty as “jewelry” as well as an activity.



Coloring books

Mini coloring books are inexpensive and can be slipped into a pocket; or consider ones that also include activities like mazes and hidden objects.



Bracelets

Glow bracelets are always a favorite, and multiples can be strung together to make necklaces. Slap bracelets come in a wide variety of patterns and colors. Rubber bracelets can be found with lots of different sayings, such as “Way to go!” or “Luck of the Irish.”

Temporary tattoos

Dinosaurs, pirates, holidays, sports, cartoon and movie characters—anything you might want can be found as a temporary tattoo. Look for rhinestone, glitter, and glow-in-the-dark tattoos, too.