

Chili & Board Games Night

Academy ACL

Colorado Springs, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education



The annual Chili and Board Game Night at the Academy for Advanced & Creative Learning (ACL) seeks to build partnerships with families and allow families to see the value of board games in building creative thinking and math and logic skills.

The school partnered with the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) to arrange board games throughout the building while also holding a chili cook off. The event is held in late January or early February every year. Families can enter their chili into a cook off with prizes organized by the PTA. Each grade level volunteers one or more of their rooms to host different types of games (cards, strategy, logic, classic, etc.). Teachers and staff also wear fun costumes to promote the event and families are free to join in the games in all the classrooms.

A few challenges included getting families through the chili lines. Next year the event will utilize dual lines to help expedite the process. There was also a very large interest in bingo and more families than expected wanted to enter the bingo room. Next year, bingo will be moved to a larger room to accommodate the interest.

For those wishing to replicate this event, promote the event for at least a month before. While the concept seems straightforward, families can still struggle to understand what games their kids could play. Provide recommendations based upon age and development. Also - oversized games are fun for smaller kids especially. Lastly, to keep costs low in the beginning, ask families to bring their favorite games to share.