

Jump into Fall – Fall for Math

Lasley Elementary School

Lakewood, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

As leaves flutter to the ground in November, families filter into Lasley Elementary for Jump into Fall - Fall for Math evening of learning. The goal of the activity is to make learning interactive, understandable, and fun for kids and families. Math games and learning, from Kindergarten to 6th grade level, were available for exploring.

Planning began early in the year to ensure a well thought out and organized event. The planning team included the principal, instructional coach, DTL (digital teacher librarian), ESL, primary and secondary teachers as well as the Family Engagement Liaison. Math can feel intimidating, so all skill levels were considered to ensure an inclusive school-wide event. Community partners were instrumental in providing materials for games and prizes.

On the night of the event, families received a 'scorecard' with the objective to visit multiple grade levels, where they would explore, learn, and participate in games like Bean Bag Bingo. Math games were leveled to all ages, so regardless of what classroom a family visited, children of all grade levels could adapt the game to their learning needs. Grade level teacher teams hosted families in classrooms and encouraged them to extend their learning at home. Fourth graders took their math learning to another dimension by linking their math games with their Colorado History Unit. Additionally, the fourth graders added a musical performance.

Dinner was available for families at their leisure which helped logistically when serving a large number of people. Area churches donated math games, decks of cards, and flash cards that were used as prizes for attendees that completed their entire scorecard. The evening was very well attended, and it was noted that this event gave families an opportunity to meet teachers at multiple grade levels and explore the other classrooms.

Timing to meet the needs of families and staff is always a challenge. However, families provided feedback that they wanted *even more* time and expanded learning activities to every classroom - not just grade level. It was important to make sure the games were not repetitive and that they used the entire spectrum of math skills and concepts. Teachers, ESL teacher, Instructional Coach, and Family Engagement Liaison worked collaboratively to ensure this was accomplished. Exit surveys showed that there was a greater turnout in the upper elementary grade levels (4th-6th) than previous years. This could indicate that families of 4th graders showed up for the added musical performance.

Staff and teachers can really set the tone by making it a priority to welcome each and every family into the learning space. Meeting the linguistic needs of all families truly means *all* families can fully participate - this cannot be overlooked. Lasley staff feel this event was a success because they were reminded that kids love to come to school and interact with their friends, families, and teachers in a way that looks and feels very different than the typical school day. When a school becomes a magical place to learn, the learning comes easy.

Standard 3—Supporting Student Success