

Study Club

Slater Elementary School

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

One goal at Slater Elementary School, located in Denver, is to engage with families to help students learn sustainable study and homework skills. With the help of family volunteers, the Study Club was born. Based on the belief that learning to learn is critical to student success, the Study Club goes beyond the traditional drop-in “homework club” model.

The Study Club was advertised with a send-home flyer over the summer prior to the school year, as well as on a tri-fold board for “Back to School Night.” The Family Engagement Liaison, Digital Teacher Librarian, and a parent volunteer also visited classrooms when school began to generate student interest in the club, and found that teachers were a big factor in student excitement and interest in the club. Staff hoped to have up to 30 students join Study Club; when over 60 students signed up, the program was expanded. Students were divided up by grade level with Kindergarten through Second Grade meeting in the computer lab and Third Grade through Sixth Grade meeting in the library. A volunteer campaign recruited nine family volunteers who signed up for specific days, with a few teachers volunteering an occasional hour after school as well. Additional volunteers included high school students, the Cafeteria Manager, and the night custodian.

There were a variety of goals associated with the Study Club. These included introducing students to study skills and habits to help them to eventually learn how to study on their own, informing families of good study habits, allowing time to read both fiction and non-fiction, providing additional homework help, and introducing additional learning and study activities through various computer programs. Other goals included providing a healthy snack to kick start student learning and building relationships with students and families by providing a comforting environment to make school feel like a safe place to be and learn.

Based on these goals, the Study Club agenda was adapted according to the specific grade levels and student need. Study skills were identified with the help of teachers and online resources such as Scholastic and Teaching.Monster.com. A free after school snack was provided through a USDA grant.

The Study Club staff and volunteers engage with parents by regularly sending home updates on what the Study Club is doing and how, as well as the particular skills being worked on. Parents are able to fill out a form on their hopes and areas of concern for their child, and phone calls home are made when specific issues arise. By creating a network of communication between all of those involved in the education of participating students, the Study Club supports student success by providing a continuum of support.