

# Yearlong Parent Coffee & Workshops

Virginia Court Elementary  
Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

One goal at Virginia Court Elementary in Aurora is to ensure parents and students share high expectations. Staff was able to accomplish this by hosting workshops for parents on math, reading, writing, and parent involvement. Coffee was offered to all who attended.

Throughout the school year, Virginia Court provided opportunities for families to have a number of learning experiences to help support their child's academic achievement. Workshops were designed based on parents' suggestions of what their needs were and according to grade level, as well as what available staff could best support the experience.

Parent leaders, community partners, teachers, and staff were instrumental in making the workshop events at Virginia Court successful. The dedication of and communication between staff raised the expectations of those involved in planning of what they would be able to accomplish and offer to families.

Most of the workshops had a written evaluation component for parents to fill out. The Virginia Court principal, assistant principal, and coordinating staff reviewed the evaluations to determine if the needs of the parents had been met. Parent reports showed that some of the workshops were not as important to families as had been assumed, while other workshops had higher parent rankings.

The workshops resulted in an improvement in student academic achievement, better school attendance, and increased partnerships and trust with both families and staff. Staff at Virginia Court Elementary believe that partnerships at all levels begin and end at the school, and that it takes a village to make a successful and sustaining impact on student success.