

## Bilingual Parent-Teacher Organization

In order to increase communication to and participation of our bilingual families in school events and activities, and to foster a more inclusive community environment, Monroe Elementary created a Bilingual Parent-Teacher Organization (Bilingual PTO). This group of family members works closely with the Non-bilingual PTO and both mirror their agendas, and school activity and event communication is executed in parallel.

The Bilingual PTO has also helped bridge the gap between our bilingual families and local community resources and organizations. This is accomplished by the simple task of structured 2-way bilingual communication on school premises.

The Bilingual PTO at Monroe would not exist without the family members who took that brave step to enter a room, sit down, and be a part of a group that benefits their children, their school, and their lives. *This family group is directly responsible for this Promising Practice.* The number of bilingual family members volunteering at school events and activities has increased since the establishment of our Bilingual PTO.

This promising practice was developed in alignment with National PTO Standards and Thompson School District's Family Engagement Policy: Welcoming All Families, Communicating Effectively, Supporting Student Success, Speaking Up for Every Child, Sharing Power, and Collaborating with the Community

We feel that the Monroe Elementary Bilingual PTO exemplifies each and every one of these standards, and sets an example that other TSD schools can replicate.

## Colorado's Promising Practices

Monroe Elementary



1500 N. Monroe Avenue  
Loveland, CO 80537  
(970) 613-6500

<http://www.thompsonschoools.org/monroe>



'Building Bridges'



## Community Pozole Dinner

Students take pride in seeing their family members participating through Monroe's Bilingual PTO, and at after school events as well. If school is important to the family and that is emulated by volunteering and attending events, then school will be important to the child. Strong two-way relationships create a sense of belonging and pride in the school community.

The school is already reaping the rewards of this philosophy. One example is at the Annual Community Pozole Dinner that is held on the first Friday in May to coincide with the Cinco de Mayo holiday. Organized by our Bilingual PTO and families, the Pozole Dinner brings together Monroe staff, students, families and community. The event is held at Zion Lutheran Church across the street from Monroe. The Zion Community provided the funding to initiate the first Pozole Dinner three years ago and has supported us ever since.

They not only provide us with the use of the church but also have staff and parishioners volunteer for this event and they anticipate it as much as we do!

## Monroe's Community Partnerships

- PTO/Bilingual PTO
- Zion Lutheran Church
- Loveland Police Department
- Loveland Fire District
- Loveland Public Library
- Larimer County Sheriff's Department
- 3 Margarita's
- King Soopers
- Walmart
- Student Body
- Staff
- Current and Former Families
- Former Students and Staff