

Description/Summary

This practice is based on the commitment of Poudre High School teachers, students and families to promote the presence, participation and success of all students, especially of our most vulnerable Hispanic students.

With this practice we visit families to share in a typical Hispanic meal and have the opportunity to get to know each other outside of school. We hear their experiences, hopes, successes and struggles they face living in another country. Together, the families and teachers can open their minds towards the Hispanic reality in this country, specifically in our city, to promote understanding, empathy and solidarity.

To Do List/Implementation

- ✓ Family Liaisons reserve two weekends dates for each semester for teachers to sign up (no more than 8 per visit)
- ✓ Family Liaisons coordinate with the host families to check availability. One family provides lunch and another provides dessert for the group.
- ✓ Family Liaisons confirm teacher attendance, meeting spot, and provide teachers with potential conversation topics and ones to avoid.
- ✓ Family Liaisons purchase a gift card for the host families as a token of appreciation.



Strategic Priorities

Poudre High School believes that the success of our students is not only related to their grades and getting a diploma, but also with how they feel supported, motivated and at ease in a safe school environment where they enjoy the learning process with teachers and staff that have open minds and are sensitive to diverse students' needs

Poudre High School promote volunteerism for teachers and staff during the school year. The Family Liaison office created "Visiting our Families" as an activity for teachers to engage in to build relationships with the Hispanic community in our school.

Testimonies

Students say this activity:

- Promotes union and intimacy between teachers and students when students share stories, hobbies in different spaces
- Greater openness in communication with teachers
- Meet new teachers
- Communication with parents changed in a positive way after the visit.

Families:

- Parents feel more support from teachers who are interested in other aspects of students out school
- Parents feel heard
- Parents recognize and value the Family Liaison's role as a bridge between families and school
- Opportunity to clarify situations with teachers and school
- Parents can trust in teachers and school
- Help parents learn about other things at school
- They realize that teachers are interested in other things about students, importance in their roots and home life
- Students are more involved with school and teachers after the visit.

Teachers:

- Helps us understand the culture and values of Hispanic families
- Provides insight into Hispanic families hopes and dreams for their children
- Gives us a chance to ask questions and better understand what we as a school can do to foster collaboration between the school system and families.
- Teachers learn about challenges Hispanic students faces at home trying to study in a tiny home, a lack of private and quiet spaces in small homes
- Helps us appreciate the use of Spanish language at home
- They are loving families that have many of the same values and hopes as anyone else
- The host families are in charge, turning the tables on Parent and Teachers conferences giving us all the opportunity to change roles

COLORADO'S PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES

POUDRE HIGH SCHOOL VISITING OUR FAMILIES

Sharing food, sharing stories, growing hopes and promoting open minds



Description/Summary

This poster shows an activity that is based on the commitment of teachers, students and families, to promote the presence, participation and success of all students, especially those most vulnerable, Hispanic students are one of these cases.

With this practice we visit families to have typical Hispanic lunch and dessert with them and have the opportunity outside of school to know about them in their own environment, heard from them experiences, hopes, success and struggles they face living in other country. Together (visited families and teachers that attend) can open their minds towards Hispanic reality in this country, specifically in our city y to promote understanding, empathy, solidarity.



To Do List/Implementation

- ✓ Include dates in school calendar (weekends). Two visits by day and two for semester.
- ✓ Call host families to check availability for the visit and share number of persons (no more than 8) are going to attend (one family for lunch/one family for dessert).
- ✓ Send email to people that are attending with name of student to visit, parents names, topics to talk and avoid. point and time to reunite to arrive together at host home.
- ✓ Buy a gift for families and a gift card to give as a surprise to host family.

Strategic Priorities

In our school we believe success of our student is related not only with their grades and getting a diploma also with how they can feel here at school supported, motivated, in a safe environment enjoying the learning process with teachers and staff that have open mind, sensitive at diversity.

From a practice that this school promote for teachers and staff to be part of a volunteer activity that needs to make off their regular schedule, Family Liaison's office created "Visiting our Families". Activity that shows twice for semester since begins scholar year in the general annual school calendar. So, teachers could decide when they want to attend it.

Testimonies

Students:

- Promotes union and intimacy between teachers and students when students sharing stories, hobbies in different spaces.
- Greater openness in communication with teachers.
- Meet new teachers.
- Communication with parents changed in a positive way after the visit.

Families:

- Parents feel more support from teachers who are interested in other aspects of students out school, give us the idea parents are important and can be listen.
- Parents recognizing and value the Family Liaison's role as a bridge between families and school.
- Opportunity to clarify situations with teachers and school.
- Parents can trust in teachers and school.
- Help parents learn about other things at school.
- They realize that teachers are interested in other things about students, importance in their roots, lives and student's.
- Students are more involved with school and teachers after the visit

Teachers:

- Helps to understand culture and values from Hispanic families.
- Provides insight into Hispanic families hopes and dreams for their children.
- Give chance to ask question and better understand what we as a school can do to foster collaboration between the school system and families.
- Teachers know about challenges Hispanic students faces at home trying to study in a tiny home, Spanish language, a lack of private and quiet spaces in small houses.
- There are loving families that have many of the same values and hopes of anyone else.
- The host Hispanic parents are in charge different than Parent and Teachers conferences giving the opportunity to change roles.