

Back to School BBQ

Castro Elementary School

Denver, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Staff and leadership at Castro Elementary School believe that family and community partnerships are critical for student success. Several initiatives occur to ensure that families are active participants in their children’s education. Recently, the school hosted a Back to School BBQ to start the school year off on a high note.

Most schools hold Back to School Night after the school year has already begun. Administrators as Castro, however, believed it was important for families and staff to meet prior to the start of the year and hosted the BBQ on August 20th during the first faculty work week.

Castro staff each received a school t-shirt to wear at the BBQ to distinguish faculty from families. Castro’s principal mentioned this was helpful so families could direct questions to the appropriate people. All teachers introduced themselves to families and helped everyone feel welcome at the event.

Teachers were organized by grade level so that families knew exactly where to go to meet their children’s teachers. In addition to meeting Castro staff, families also enjoyed free food and a DJ. Staff gave away over 1,000 books for students to start a home library. The school received donations and used discretionary funds to pay for the event.

Over 500 families attended the Back to School BBQ. Castro staff notified families about the event through fliers, robo-calls, and in person at student registration. As a result of the Back to School BBQ, families and students felt welcome and part of the school community before the school year even began.