

# International Night Lawrence Elementary School Arvada, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

For the fourth consecutive year, Lawrence Elementary School, located in Arvada, hosted an International Night to engage the broader community as well as expand all students understanding of the world. School staff collaborate with community to provide demonstrations, activities, cultural artifacts, and international food to enhance students' and families' learning.

International Night planning begins with an invitation to families to share their specific culture at the event. After assessing parents' interest in sharing their cultures, the planning committee meets to brainstorm about what other cultures are represented at the school. The committee also identifies potential community partners to share cultural resources and knowledge. One week prior to night, a blitz of advertising begins to get everyone excited; the halls are decorated, calls are made to invite families, and music is played on the announcements.

As families enter Lawrence Elementary on the evening of the event, they sign into the Travel Log and receive a passport to get stamped throughout the school at each cultural destination. Food is available in the cafeteria, courtesy of many community restaurants committed to partnering with the school. This partnership is a win-win, since International Night is a way for the restaurants to advertise their business.



Families make their way through the school into each room to experience a culture through a performance, activity, music, decoration, traditional dance, or craft. The idea is to give everyone a better understanding of the cultures represented at Lawrence and to show the similarities and differences with their own cultures. Some families dress in ethnic costumes and take a Polaroid picture to add to their passport.



A few grade levels display students' projects. This year, the sixth grade presented their Western Hemisphere projects throughout the hallway and enjoyed sharing and talking about the unit. Third grade also presented their Native American dioramas in the hallway. This is a great way that students participate and show off their learning.

Standard 1--Welcoming All Families