

Quarterly Celebrations and New Family Orientations

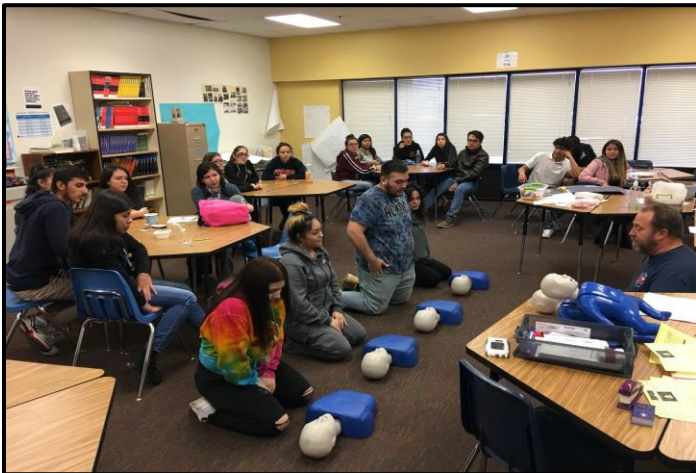
The New America School

Lakewood, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

The New America School serves over 300 students from all over the world including, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern European nations who want to learn or perfect English and earn a high school diploma. The school hosts quarterly celebrations and new family orientations every nine weeks with a goal to welcome families into the school, celebrate student achievement, and encourage families to have conversations with staff members to learn about the school policies and procedures.



Families are invited every nine weeks to the quarterly award assemblies to celebrate student achievement. Next to the parent-teacher conferences, this event has the second highest family participation.

New family orientation also occurs quarterly, during new student enrollment. This is a time for new students and families to get to know the school and voice any ideas, questions, or concerns. Families have access to the staff and principal during these events, where they learn

about school policies and expectations.

In this welcoming environment, students, families and staff have the opportunity to have informal and open dialogue around student achievement. After these events, more families and students come into the office wanting to talk to the staff or principal. This indicates that families feel at-ease and welcomed at New America School.

New America's family engagement liaison states: "We believe that by creating these pathways, we are building relationships through celebrations and orientation, thus ensuring a partnership to have positive student outcomes. We also believe that it facilitates family-student re-engagement, which will lead a rise in attendance rates and student achievement and a decrease in dropout and truancy."

