

Family Fun Night

Centennial Middle School

Boulder, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Family Fun Night at Centennial Middle School (CMS) aims to increase family partnerships from all parent demographic groups in a school event. Specifically, CMS targeted groups of parents who were previously not represented at most formal parent groups, PTO and SAC, and who had less than average participation at current night events.

In August of 2015, Centennial Middle School established a School Accountability Committee. This group reviewed several items including: the district Unified Improvement Plan goals for our school, and all data available from test results and climate surveys. After several meetings of reviewing data and completing data analysis protocols, the group then set specific action steps for each of our specific school goals.

One goal, The Family Partnership Goal, was set by BVSD and required all schools to select a parent representative for our school Family Partnership Contact, and to complete the BVSD newly created BVSD Family Partnership Inventory. This first year, 2015-16, CMS worked with the BVSD Family Partnership leader to help us recruit parent volunteers for SAC and PTO from underrepresented groups, specifically parents who speak Spanish and whose students are in the English as a Second Language program.

This past year, 2016-17, CMS set a specific goal for increasing parent involvement from all demographics in our school in order to increase family engagement within the school. The SAC group continued to use the BVSD documents provided to help us create a one year action plan, or Families and Educators Together (FET) goal. CMS set a goal of increasing the PTO and Accountability involvement. Number counts at meetings showed increased attendance, and increased demographics of the school population that was represented at meetings.

CMS also set a goal of increasing activities at our school for parent participation and engagement for families. This work led us to create the first ever Family Fun Night that was held in April 2017. This was a dinner, bottle flipping contest, movie and movie trivia night. CMS made this a bilingual event, Spanish and English, to target the community they were trying to bring in.

All marketing and trivia sheets were in both languages. Marketing strategies used were: signage, school newsletter (posted on the website and sent out via email), PTO newsletter (posted on their website and emailed out), announcements at school via the intercom and on our TV, and the use of the electronic sign at the front of the school. A local company provided popcorn, the PTO funded a pizza dinner, and SAC arranged for the games and movie. At the May SAC meeting members debriefed the activity and decided to expand the evening to include more activities.