

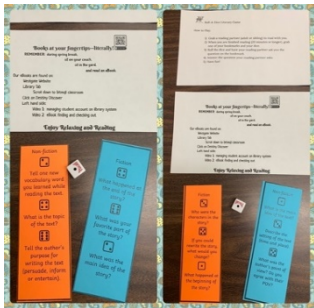
Family Engagement Projects

Westgate Elementary School

Lakewood, CO



The 20-21 school year showed the resilience of Westgate Elementary School’s families, students, and staff. With the back-and-forth of schools closing due to quarantines and students working on Chromebooks, parents missed the interaction of seeing work brought home by their children. In an interview in January 2021, parents stated that they wanted to see the work their students were doing in person and continue supporting that work at home.



Parents trust that at Westgate, their voices are heard. After the January 2021 interviews, when parents stated they missed seeing work, Westgate’s Family Engagement Liaison (FEL) met with administration to discuss the data. Westgate’s FEL collaborated with the Instructional Coach to create month family engagement activities that aligned to class-centered projects.

In February, Westgate distributed the first family engagement project to every student, both in-person and remote learning. The first project focused on STEM and was an observation machine. All materials to make the observation machine were sent home. It was well received by both students and parents.



In March, Westgate focused on Language Arts and sent home bookmark dice games with thick and thin questions for both primary and intermediate levels. Students really enjoyed reading with their families and using the bookmarks as leading questions.



April’s collaboration with grade level teachers focused on Math. Families received Big Question math projects or games. When parents were asked about the projects, many stated they enjoyed learning with their children and asked if there would be something they could do over the summer. As a result, In May Westgate sent home summer packets to help students prevent loss of learning while out of school.

With such a positive response from students and families, Westgate will continue to send home the Family Engagement projects. To have a project like this be successful, schools should talk to parents and ask what they want and work together with not just the parents but school staff as well. Teachers, paras, administrators, and instructional coaches having an input makes such a large undertaking not just successful, but equitable, and fun!