

Wild West Saddle-Up and Learn Night Kullerstrand Elementary School Wheat Ridge, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

On November 16, 2017 the entire Kullerstrand Elementary staff hosted an evening of fun and learning called Wild West Saddle-Up and Learn. This western themed night featured four different centers of learning that taught family members of Kullerstrand students games and skills to be used at home to enhance academic success in the subject areas of math, reading, and writing.

In addition to parents in attendance, many grandparents, aunts and uncles, and sibling participated in the event. Kullstrand's family liaison explains: "The diverse mix in ages, from one to 85, made for a night that was a challenge to find the appropriate learning tools to satisfy each group in this demographic. That being said, the combination of families and Kullerstrand staff worked together to find solutions (such as adapting games and learning materials) that are being used in the home today!"

The Kullerstrand planning committee, comprised of staff, families, and administration, intentionally aligned the activity with Standard 3 of the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. Staff notice the biggest impact around student reading. Since the event, students and families report reading together more extensively at home.



As active participants in the event, the entire Kullerstrand staff observed families engaging in the evening's activities and chatted with them about subject-specific curricula. Subsequent and ongoing conversations with families and students have given Kullerstrand staff insight about the effectiveness of the learning achieved that night. From this evaluation, staff have learned about the need and desire for continued workshops to enhance the skill level of adults as they continue to encourage learning at home.

Kullerstrand's family liaison offers the following advice to others wanting to host a similar activity: "Get as many people as possible involved from the beginning. The multitude of ideas, experiences and resources makes for a more effective evening of learning for the families."