

# Art Galleria

Peoria Elementary School

Aurora, CO



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Celebrating student creativity is a unique and exciting way to bring families, schools, and communities together. At Peoria Elementary School in Aurora, expanding a traditional school carnival into the Art Galleria, a fun event for families, is a lively way of showing what students are learning and creating in Art Class, while also highlighting how the arts connect with science, math, and history.

Art Galleria involves the whole school and surrounding community partners. The Family Liaison planned and organized the event with the help of school staff, teachers, the Community Core Liaison, parent volunteers, and community volunteers. To make the event more meaningful, the Family Liaison made sure to include an academic component.

Evaluations were collected in both written format and by word of mouth. Peoria Elementary staff learned that by actively engaging with families, they become more interested and committed to doing what they can outside of the school setting to encourage learning. Families reported a better understanding of how learning takes on more than one form.

Peoria Elementary staff recommend that when planning an event such as the Art Galleria, to start as early as possible and to include the involved teachers, such as the art teachers, in the planning. It's important to remember that teachers' time is limited, and that by starting early, all of those involved in the planning have enough time and opportunity to review the plan multiple times in order to work out any challenges or obstacles that arise.