

Family Learning Night Thompson Elementary School Arvada, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

During the 2017-18 school year, staff at Thompson Elementary School hosted its 6th annual Family Learning Night. The event, entitled “Learning is an Adventure--Take Risks!” focused on encouraging students to adopt a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset.

The planning process for Family Learning Night began at the beginning of the school year and was led by a volunteer committee of staff and faculty. This committee was responsible for planning, organization, determining workshops topics, budgeting, and the solicitation of donations. The committee gathered 38 additional volunteers to assist in the event execution. The committee specifically chose to solicit staff volunteers so that families could focus on supporting student success and engagement by participating alongside their children.

Family Learning Night was open to all Thomson families at no cost and was promoted in multiple languages to ensure an open and welcoming environment. To encourage equal access and support for the diverse community, the committee was sure to provide three dual-language interpreters and a mental health professional on-site.

Each workshop was specifically designed to support family engagement and learning. The workshop activities supported problem solving, math skills, critical thinking, and social-emotional learning. Additionally, parents learned how to support student learning through do-at-home activities, and strategies for implementing changes at home to support student success and independent learning.



Thomson’s planning committee used an exhaustive list of communication methods to promote the learning night, including: Messenger, email, Friday folders, the school calendar, Facebook, the school website, Remind App, Classroom Dojo, and the community marquee. During the event, each student and family had access to the principal, vice-principal, teachers, support staff, and community members.

After the event, parents communicated their feedback via digital survey and face-to-face communication with teachers and staff. The survey results revealed that families enjoyed the workshops, but would have preferred that the event lasted a bit longer to allow for deeper engagement.