

Homemade Blanket Night

Moffat PK-12 School

Moffat, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

One of the goals at Moffat Consolidated School District #2 is to focus on building trusting relationships with families and community members. Located in the rural San Luis Valley, where temperatures drop to 0 degrees when the sun goes down around 4:00pm in the winter, Moffat PK-12 is a small school of 104 students. Staff and families in the school recognized the need for extra warmth over the cold winter nights. Moffat families are unique in the fact that they mostly use woodstoves or different means for heat. During the 2023 Thanksgiving holiday season, Moffat gathered families for a night to create their own homemade blankets to snuggle under together for the long break and hopefully create a school tradition. It also helped build trust amongst the participants by making the school building feel like a safe and welcoming place for all.

Making a blanket as a family was a meaningful bonding experience among the family members, as well as all the staff that volunteered to participate and run the blanket night. Not only were families working together on cutting, tying, and measuring their blankets, they got to sit and chat with other community partners, family members, and district staff, all of whom tied ends of blankets and cut fabric with the families.

Approximately 20 families attended. This event provided an opportunity to spend quality time together, share stories, and meet other people in the community. Working on a shared project can provide emotional support during challenging times. It offered a safe space for family members to open up, express themselves, and provide comfort and encouragement to one another. Participating families enjoyed this event and asked Moffat PK-12 to host it again, noting that the blankets were ideal for chilly football games.



Securing space and supplies proved to be the greatest challenge. Advice offered to schools hoping to host a blanket making night is to first make sure there is a large enough space for all who want to participate. Next, order the right amount of blanket material and pre-cut the fabric for the same equal length of material per family. Encourage teamwork and communication among the family members and provide multiple patterns of materials, sharp scissors, and yardsticks. Finally, Moffatt staff recommend making sure there are enough school staff to help with knotting the blankets.

Standard 1 – Welcome All Families

Essential Element 2 – Build Trusting Relationships