

Resource Fair and Carnival

Everitt Middle School

Wheat Ridge, CO



For the last several years, Everitt Middle School has combined its annual Fall Festival with a community resource fair. The festival brings the community together for fun. While families enjoy the festivities, it provides easy access to community support such as Jefferson Center for Mental Health (JCMH), Family Tree, and the Migrant Education Program, just to name a few.

After year one, which was only open to our middle school population, Everitt staff decided as a committee to extend the invitation to families of children that would feed into the school, as well as the families in the neighborhood around the school. This has brought greater interest and participation and a larger number of families have gained useful information to help support their children and families.

One of the goals of this practice is to support families who are in transitional living situations and quite often lack access to resources to support their children. It also gives families the opportunity to connect with different community members in the area and build awareness of the need. Equally important, the fair provides an opportunity for families to get to know the school and staff and to feel welcomed and excited for the upcoming school year!

Many stakeholder's voices are represented on the planning committee: the principal, social worker, PTA president, school staff, and the Family Engagement Liaison. The team meets one month prior to the event to share the responsibilities and discuss logistics. Some of the shared responsibilities include: getting games, food, volunteers, set up, clean up, contacting vendors, and promotion of the event to the community.

This practice is connected to improving the quality of life of our families who are going through a difficult situation in their life. This event also brings a sense of unity to all the families of the articulation area and makes them feel more welcomed at Everitt Middle School. The positive climate of our school has improved, as families feel more comfortable and more confident in coming to our school and asking for help. Many of our elementary students and families have stated that coming to this event prior to coming to middle school has motivated them to come to the middle school as well as making their experience 'less nerve wracking'.



Everitt's Family Engagement Liaison shares the following advice: "There has to be a lot of organization and discipline when planning this kind of event. You have to take into consideration that not everything is going to be perfect but by working as a team, the event can flow easier. All members of the committee must be in agreement with the event plans and take their responsibility very seriously since each of the positions is key for the success of the event."

Standard 1—Welcoming All Families