

Spring Remote Learning 2020

Edgewater Elementary School

Edgewater, CO



Edgewater Elementary staff, students, and families always look forward to the annual Spring Carnival. This event allows students, teachers, staff, and parents to come together for one during the school year to share memories and create more. This year's event was going to have a literature focus. Unfortunately, like so many other long-awaited plans, the Spring Carnival was canceled because of COVID-19.

All students, families, and teachers had to turn to remote learning—a huge change with many obstacles and challenges. Luckily, these new realities didn't dampen Edgewater staff's spirit as they found other ways to support students and strengthen partnerships with families.

Teachers helped their students throughout this time of new learning while they themselves were learning how to manage this new system. Many families had to become much more involved with their child's education due to distance learning. Staff took great effort in reaching out to families that needed support with technology, internet services, food and other resources. In turn, families were willing and available to receive support from staff members in setting up internet services and applications such as SeeSaw, Google Classroom and Google Meet.

During remote learning, Edgewater staff saw an increase of families helping their children with schoolwork. For example, in some primary grade levels, students were asked to video tape their reading. In the video, you can see and/or hear some families helping the student sound out words, taking turns reading, or just encouraging them to keep going. Many families joined Google Meet sessions to learn instructional strategies to support their child at home or to touch base with the teacher. Staff noticed a level of family engagement that we had not experienced before. Even the school principal experienced an increase in families reaching out through emails and phone calls.



The highlight during this difficult time was during Teacher Appreciation Week. Many families and students sent notes, photos, videos, and poems to thank their teachers for all the hard work they do every day. Many staff members shared that they had never experienced the level of gratitude and appreciation they received from our families and students.

Edgewater's mission is to provide a quality education for every student every day. During these challenging times, all stakeholders demonstrated what this mission is all about. Edgewater's family engagement liaison explained: "Even though the Spring Carnival was not an event to engage our families this school year, we found that remote learning formed partnerships between school and families that will have a positive impact moving forward. We are proud of our school community where everyone showed that 'all means all.'"