
BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC

Landstuhl Elementary/Middle School

Germany

Landstuhl Elementary/Middle School held its first Back to School Picnic the Friday before school started in August. Its purpose was to bring students, parents and staff together in an informal setting. This Type 2 (Communicating) activity provided teachers and parents an opportunity to become familiar with one another, and it was designed to decrease tension associated with the first day of school. In addition, class lists were posted to notify students and parents of all students' teachers and classmates.

The event was held from 3:30-6:00 on the redtop in front of the school. The Action Team recruited volunteers to shop for food, cook on the grills, and serve food.

Action team members raised the funds for the picnic, which totaled \$1000. Seven hundred people attended the event, and because of this success, the Back to School Picnic will become an annual activity.

Some improvements for next year's picnic concern the posting of the class lists; each list included the following statement: "Absolutely no classroom switches will be discussed." Though not intended, the tone of the sentence gave the perception of a parent/staff threat. In addition, the lists were posted before the event, and school staff was nervous that this might create unnecessary tension. The Action Team will work to improve some of the picnic activities for next year.

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