
MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Franklin/York Learning Center

Massillon, Ohio

In order to engage the community as a partner and foster greater communication between school and home, the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) decided to plan a multicultural event for January. The ATP and other committees worked diligently as a team to create Multicultural Night. Teachers involved their students in learning activities at each grade level around cultural themes and planned special displays for the event.

Each of Epstein's six types of involvement was addressed in the plans for the evening.

- Type 1-Parenting: Families worked together at home to create displays of their cultural heritage and displayed them at booths during Multicultural Night.
- Type 2-Communicating: The ATP highlighted Multicultural Night as an upcoming event in the school newsletter. Fliers were sent home with each child inviting parents to attend. ATP members phoned parents to personally invite them. The two local newspapers included Multicultural Night in their upcoming events schedules. In addition, the Washington High School television station advertised the event.
- Type 3-Volunteering: Parents volunteered to help with classroom projects, as well as attend and participate in the evening's activities. Students and their parents participated in hands-on activities such as weaving a Kwanza placemat, creating an English coat of arms, and making a Canadian soap carving.
- Type 4-Learning at Home: Families left the Multicultural Night with a "suitcase" of learning activities to review and do at home.
- Type 5-Decision Making: Parents were an integral part of planning and implementing the event.
- Type 6-Collaborating with the Community: Community organizations participated by providing ethnic food and African drum music. McDonald's provided American apple pies. A Native American community member displayed artifacts and spoke of his culture. The French and Spanish classes from the high school developed displays and activities for visitors to their tables. The high school jazz band played music for everyone to enjoy.

Three hundred people enjoyed the Multicultural Night and benefited from the teamwork of the ATP and other school committees.

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