
FAMILY WORKS

Kent Island Elementary School

Stevensville, Maryland

Kent Island Elementary School received a grant from Family Works on the Eastern Shore, the federally funded Parent Information Resource Center, to develop school, family, and community partnership practices in its pre-k to grade two school. This year the school held two fun and informative learning nights to introduce parents to its new math curriculum and to share some reading and media techniques that they could use to help their children at home.

In October, about eighty parents and their children attended the Family Math Night. The two-hour evening began with an overview of the new math curriculum including a video presentation followed by math games that could be played at home. Parents, students, and teachers divided into three groups by grade level to participate in grade-appropriate math games from the new curriculum. In February, families, students, and teachers came together again to celebrate “A Star Spangled Banner Night for Reading.” This engaging family reading night incorporated four sessions: media techniques; reading strategies; the reading referral process; and reading games and homework tips. The patriotic theme warmed everyone’s hearts on this cold winter night.

Both the math night and the reading night gave school staff an opportunity to explain programs to parents before confusion and misunderstanding occurred that might interfere with student progress. It also enabled parents to ask questions and share information about how the reading and math programs could benefit their children.

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