

Math + Sports = FUN

*Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence
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Some parents expected a traditional math night at Dr. Lydia T. Wright School. Instead, they found kids jumping rope, running relay races, and running around the pool. A heated game of volleyball took place in the pool, and students participated in a scavenger hunt. Parents must have thought they stumbled upon a field day rather than a math night!

Data from the Terra Nova and New York State Math Assessments indicated deficiencies in the area of measurement across all grade levels. In response, the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) combined the very popular Family Sports Night with a math night focused on measurement. Math + Sports = Fun encouraged parents and children to recognize the different uses for math and measurement in real life. For two hours, students and parents rotated by grade level from the gymnasium to the pool to the cafeteria every thirty minutes. Each location had three measurement-related activities for students to complete.

Gymnasium activities included standing and running long jumps; counting the number of baskets made; running relays (measuring time and distance); jumping rope (the number jumped in 30 seconds); calculating perimeter/area/circumference; and distance throwing.

Pool activities included running the width of the pool and calculating heart rate and pulse; holding breath under water and counting seconds; calculating feet and yards; running relay races; and counting consecutive baskets and volleys using swimming pool equipment.

Cafeteria activities included playing a trivia game related to the origins of measure-

ment (example: “Why is a mile 5280 feet?”); taking a quarter mile walk in the building and using signs and landmarks to identify distances walked; and cutting yarn into one inch, one foot, and three feet lengths and participating in a scavenger hunt to locate three items that measured those lengths.

After the last session of the evening, the students and their parents shared a snack. A “Guessing Jar” was available for children and parents to make an estimate of how many gummy sneakers were in the Guessing Jar.

Each family received a family math kit and a packet with games, ideas, and activities to use with their children at home. Each packet, designed by grade level, ensured that activities would be appropriate and fun for preschoolers through eighth graders. Younger students received pencils and rulers, while older students received tape measures, compasses, and protractors. The evening cost \$800 and was funded through the Home School Association and Title I.

Math + Sports = Fun brought parents, teachers, and students together for an evening devoted to improving measurement skills. Parents and faculty staffed activities, prepared schedules, and compiled packets for distribution. Students worked cooperatively with their parents in order to complete the activities. Everyone had fun and enjoyed the physical aspects of the sports activities.

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