

Family Math Night

*Conococheague Elementary School
Hagerstown, Maryland*

Math is fun at Conococheague Elementary School's annual Family Math Night. Students and their parents and other family members get together in the school cafeteria to play math games their teachers have made up. Each family takes home a copy of the teacher-created activities so children and adults can continue to practice math skills at home. In addition to the teachers' games, the school also had a local teacher supply store selling math-related games.

This practice has three goals: (1) to provide parents with materials used in the math classroom that will help them work with their student at home, (2) to get parents and their children to talk and work together, and (3) to create a positive school-home connection. In these ways, Family Math Night directly supports Conococheague's School Improvement Plan goals of improving community and home conditions and supporting math skills.

The idea for Conococheague's Family Math Night came from a local magazine article that highlighted a teacher supply store that sponsors Family Math Nights in many schools. The School Improvement Team, which is composed of faculty, administration, and parents, planned the event, and the school's newly formed Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) contributed ideas and support. The ATP will take on a greater role next year.

The math night was publicized in the school newsletter, on radio announcements, and in a flier sent home a few days before the event.

Thanks to Family Math Night, students received extra practice on skills they were learning in the classroom in a more informal setting. Students, parents, and teachers laughed and worked together as families moved from station to station, strengthening their relationships.

Most importantly, students realized that learning is fun! "Can we do this again?" asked one student enthusiastically. Conococheague's response is a resounding "Yes!"

*Sherry Everitts, Parent Partnership Coordinator
(301) 766-8102
everishe@wcboe.k12.md.us*