

Math Game Night

*Emma K. Doub Elementary School
Hagerstown, Maryland*

The staff at Emma K. Doub Elementary School, which serves students in grades 3–5, integrates arts and technology into all daily lesson plans. Emma K. Doub works jointly with Funkstown Elementary School, which serves grades K–2.

The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) at Emma K. Doub wanted to involve families in strengthening math skills among students at both schools. The ATP decided to use educational games that would be both entertaining and stimulating. The Home School Connection, a local business, was contacted as a resource; the store provided an assortment of math games for children of varying ages and skill levels.

The staff at Home School Connection taught the teachers how to play the games. The teachers could then modify them as needed. For example, in a dice game, younger students could add the numbers to obtain the sum, while older students could multiply the numbers to find the product. Teachers explained these variations to the families at Math Game Night. Families were able to try many games and were encouraged to switch to other tables.

At the end of the evening, families were able to buy the games they enjoyed. The turnout was huge, and the Home School Connection sold out.

By playing these games at home, students felt more comfortable and confident with their math skills. Many reported that they were going to teach them to siblings and friends. Parents were happy to learn about these games,

which help support and reinforce skills children learn at school. The Home School Connection benefited by highlighting its business and attracting new customers.

One parent exclaimed “Thank you! This is a great way for me to help my child practice his math skills. I am comfortable teaching him through the process of this math game. It promotes great family time!” A teacher reported “This was a great activity. There was such a large turnout; I got to connect with parents and students in all grades.”

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