

# Passport to the World of Math

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*Suring Elementary School  
Suring, Wisconsin*

**S**uring Elementary School introduced Family Math Night in April. In the past, Family Reading Nights have been successful at Suring, but the Family School Community Partnership Team decided it was time to focus on other academic areas, and all agreed that math was a great place to start.

The team also decided that after the long winter the event should be lively and fun, with students and their families moving from station-to-station as they completed games and solved puzzles and problems in a carnival-like atmosphere.

Each family received a passport at the door. As families completed each activity, they received a stamp, and a certain number of stamps qualified them for a goodie bag to take home. Stations included: estimate your weight, count jumps completed in a minute (using a jump rope), measure and make snacks, decorate a math bookmark, complete Sudoku puzzles, toss bean bags, fold a paper airplane, complete math games, and guess how many candies are in a jar. The area library sponsored the Sudoku puzzle station and held a drawing for two books. Twelve animal-shaped candy containers were awarded to the lucky family guessing the number of pieces in the jars. All of the stations were designed to enhance students' math skills. The passport gave families a guide and kept them moving, and trying new activities, as they wanted to get enough stamps for a goodie bag.

Many people helped to make this such a successful event. Parents and the partnership team did most of the overall planning. Commu-

nity members set up and staffed stations, as did teachers, parents, and students. Parents made signs, displaying them both in the school and throughout the community. The local Lioness Club and the Parents Group helped the school pay the math night expenses, which totaled about \$150.

Feedback was very positive. The students practiced their math skills in an entertaining atmosphere and got to see how math applies to everyday life. Parents commented that they liked the hands-on activities and enjoyed interacting with their children. Teachers said they liked that the activities were fun, but that the children were learning at the same time. Everyone worked together and the feeling of partnership was pervasive: "The Family School Community Partnership was shining through very brightly that night; we all felt great about it," said one of the organizers.

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