

Safe Trick or Treat Night

Horace Mann Middle School

Colorado Springs, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Mann Middle School has identified three Major Improvement Strategies to improve the school. Each of these Major Improvement Strategies has measurable sub-goals embedded within them. The district refers to this as the One Plan. One of those goals is Community Stakeholder and Engagement, which states that the Mann Middle School staff will develop partnerships with the feeder schools and the extended school community through active communication, school community events, site visits, volunteer opportunities, and active family involvement in student learning and activities. The implementation of the Safe Trick or Treat Night was to provide community outreach, collaborate with the surrounding feeder schools, and work with other D11 departments. The feeder schools and Mann had lost a vital connection during the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual Safe Trick or Treat night also promotes a better Halloween experience for everyone in the community.



Staff members and volunteers had specific roles with set-up, community outreach for donations, and providing decorations. Many of the staff and volunteers "adopted" a door to decorate with their own style and ideas. School Resource Officers (SRO) were also enlisted to assist with traffic and security. This event helped develop solidarity between the elementary feeder schools and encouraged the community to get to know the staff and students. The Safe Trick or Treat event also provided an opportunity to reach out to school partners, businesses, and local churches, increasing the positive school climate.



The practice was evaluated by the outcome of participation and connections made through feeder schools, parents, and the neighborhood. The event has attracted almost 900 neighborhood students and their families in the past and continues to grow. Challenges included the size of the event, possible weather, and having enough volunteer participation.

The Safe Trick or Treat Night is an amazing community outreach program that is fun and wide reaching. Detailed planning, collaboration, organization, and communication are key. A significant amount of volunteer support is also integral to the event's success.

