

School on the Rise Dinner & Veteran's Day Concert

Ignacio School District
Ignacio, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

History is an important subject for students to learn in order to become invested members of their communities. Ignacio School District believes that learning history in a hands-on fashion can often help students to understand the subject more fully. This is one of the reasons for their annual Schools on the Rise Dinner and Veteran's Day Concert.

For the past four years, the Ignacio District has been hosting this event, which is open to all members of the community and is widely attended – often more than 50% of the town is present! The planning for the event is a true collaboration and involves students, district staff, teachers, and food service staff. The cost of the event is covered by the school district in order to make sure that all community members can attend.

Veterans are specially invited to the event and a concert of patriotic music is put on in order to honor these esteemed guests. Having veterans as guests helps students to learn to respect the veterans, their experiences, and their sacrifices. This encourages students to be better citizens.

While veterans are special guests of this event, all members of the community are also invited and welcomed. Community members are asked to provide any input or concerns that they may have regarding the school district. The casual and family-friendly environment allows people to express their thoughts openly.

During the first year of this event, community members were asked to answer questions on motivating students, engaging families, and meeting expectations. This information was put together and made into a booklet that was distributed in the community. It also became the foundation for the continued improvements in the school district in the areas of communication, accountability, parent engagement, attendance, and expectations.

Each year, the current status of the school district in these areas is presented, along with goals for the future. Some of the goals that have emerged include district wide family nights, the development of student friendly rubrics, and continuing positive rewards and incentives for students.

The Schools on the Rise Dinner and Veteran's Day Concert is a great way to connect with all members of the community and form true family-school-community partnerships, while also collecting and using feedback to improve the work of the school district.