

5th Grade Pie Making with Fractions

Welchester Elementary School

Golden, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Is there a more fun or delicious way to learn fractions than through making (and eating) pie? Staff, students, and families at Welchester Elementary School don't think so! Right before their fall break, Welchester staff hosted the 5th Grade Pie Making with Fractions. This experiential learning project highlighted the practical use of fractions.



The event takes a lot of planning and preparation. Fifth Grade teachers work with families and the Family Engagement Liaison weeks in advance to gather ingredients and support from the community. Students receive the ingredient list and practice reading it, manipulating measurements, and prepping for the big day. A local grocery store (King Soopers) supplies pie boxes to make transporting pies home a breeze. The school receives most of the ingredients for pie night through donations.

On the day of the big event, students bring ingredients - including peeled and sliced apples, tools and baking supplies to make and measure their 'school-made' pies. Attendees gather in the cafeteria with scrubbed hands and aprons, and everyone starts mixing! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and sometimes even former teachers stop by to assist the students with their pie making. Teachers walk around and supervise, reminding students that flour must be measured just right, or that 3 teaspoons equals a tablespoon. Students mix and measure all the ingredients. They even make the pie crust from scratch!

The pie making activity is directly connected to the 5th-grade math curriculum fractions unit with an emphasis on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. After the activity, students wrote a Procedural Text on how-to make an apple pie. They could draw from their experiences and make the recipe on their own.

Welchester's family engagement liaison shares: "The biggest challenges we face with this event are securing donations in time and the clean up! Luckily, the community comes together to help with these matters, and every year so far we've been able to pull it off!" Not only does Welchester receive a lot of community support, they also give back. The day of pie making, families and students take time to make additional pies that are donated to a local shelter.

Standard 3--Supporting Student Success