

International Dinner

Lewis-Palmer School District 38

Monument, CO



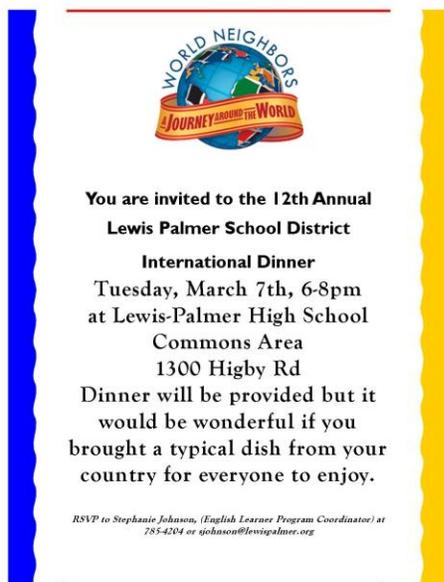
COLORADO
Department of Education

Lewis Palmer School District’s International Dinner aims to provide an opportunity for families within the school community to share a dish from their native country and meet new people. Students of the parents who attend the International Dinner receive books and play games representing a variety of different countries. Attendees of the event also report feeling more connected with other parents and district staff.



Prior to the dinner, information is sent to the community to request a reduced cost for food. A flyer advertises the dinner, and invites everyone in the school community to attend. The dinner is for all ages, families, staff, administrators, and anyone with a connection to another culture.

Lewis Palmer’s English Learner (EL) Program Coordinator states that one of the biggest challenges is finding a venue large enough, since 200+ people attend. Space is needed for the buffet, tables, chairs, and centers for students to complete activities. A space is also needed for student performances.



The EL staff debriefs the International Dinner to determine what worked well and what needed to be improved. Over the years, the EL Program Coordinator developed a “continuity book” to avoid reinventing the wheel and encourage sustainability. Lewis Palmer staff also recommends connecting with community members, and learning what EL families do for a living, in order to include them in the planning (e.g. tapping into their businesses, such as restaurants).