

# Vaughn Monthly Parent Math Academy

## Vaughn Elementary School

### Aurora, CO



The importance of family partnerships has always and continues to be a major focus at Vaughn Elementary, as well as in the Aurora Public Schools District. Including parents in the learning of their students has been a focus this year in order to give parents the tools needed to help their children at home with assignments when needed. Assuming that parents will know how to help their student with their math homework was a generalization Vaughn staff needed to avoid making.



During a family engagement-planning meeting, the first and second grade teachers, Family Liaison, and Family Literacy teacher combed through Title I surveys to determine potential initiatives for the 2019-20 school year. The number one requested item was learning to understand the new math strategies to be able to help their children. Some suggested presenting lessons at parent meetings either before or after school but others wanted it to be more impactful and engaging.

The planning committee made the decision to invite parents into the classroom during a new math lesson so they could see the lesson for themselves and observe how their child is learning during whole group instruction. This high-impact strategy gives parents insight into how their child learns and participates, while noting any strengths and struggles the child might have.

Once breaking off into small group practice, parents were encouraged to participate in their child's group. They used the same tools the students would be using for the lesson. Parents received a take-home math tool-kit to help them practice their student's new learning in math. This bi-monthly event started with few attendees but once word got out, parents started inviting other parents by word of mouth and attendance improved. The consensus from parents was positive; they enjoyed learning alongside their children.



Vaughn teachers are already seeing the positive impact on students whose parents attended at least three academies, including improved confidence, fewer interventions, and increased homework completion.

Vaughn's Family Liaison shared: "My advice to anyone wanting to replicate this Family Engagement event would be to have your teachers on board, provide manipulatives for families to take for at-home practice, get someone to help you take pictures, be ready for lots of parent questions, advertise every which way you can, and recruit room parents to help spread the word!"