

EL Family Night

By EL Family Night Leadership Team

English Learner Family Night Field Trip

For the past three years, the English Learner Family Night Leadership Team at Fargo Public Schools has been setting the stage for a remarkable educational and community-building experience with its EL Family Nights. Held twice a month at Agassiz, these themed events have become a staple, bringing together families, teachers, and students for a night of learning, connection, and joy. As the district proudly celebrates the success of the EL Family Nights, the most recent event on December 14 marked a milestone with a record-breaking attendance of 225 people.

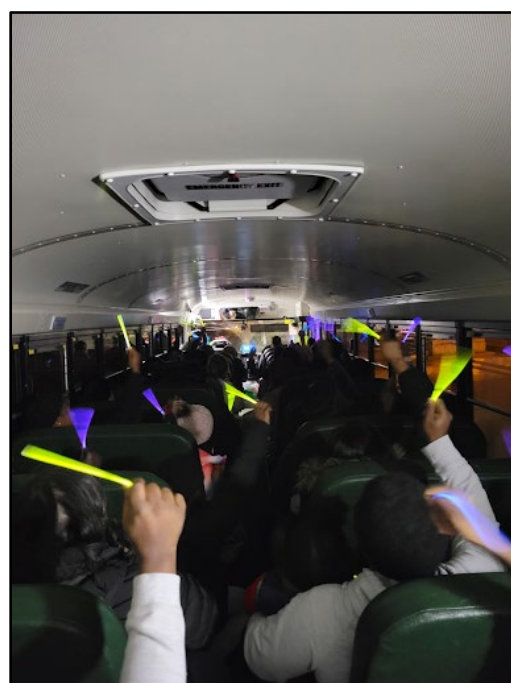


The Magic of the First Family Field Trip

A highlight of the EL Family Nights this year was the first "Family Field Trip." Three buses loaded with eager families embarked on a holiday lights tour, creating an unforgettable experience. The delighted gasps and joyous exclamations of "wow" from both children and parents illuminated the night.

Family Night was initially conceived with the intention of providing teachers with an opportunity to connect with our students and their families beyond the confines of the traditional classroom setting. Over time, it has grown into something far more profound – a shared experience where families eagerly come not only to be connected with us but to connect with each other.

The strong sense of belonging that permeates during Family Night is a testament to the power of building bridges between educators, students, and families. We have



EL Family Night, continued



witnessed a remarkable shift, with families actively seeking this occasion as a means to make meaningful connections with others who share similar cultural differences. The bonds formed during Family Night extend far beyond the event itself, creating a network of support and understanding that enriches the fabric of our community.

Family Night has become a haven for shared experiences, laughter, and learning, providing a unique opportunity for families to break away from the routine and come together in a meaningful way. Equally noteworthy is the impact on our teachers. The experience has broadened our capacity for understanding and appreciating the diverse cultures that make up our community. Through these interactions, we not only teach but also learn, creating a dynamic exchange that enriches our professional and personal lives.

Each EL Family Night is carefully curated by the team, offering a unique blend of education and fun. Families kick off the evening with engaging activities centered around a specific theme. From science experiments to art projects, the nights are designed to be interactive and enjoyable for all ages. Snacks are shared, laughter is heard, and a sense of community begins to blossom.

While the children delve into grade-level-specific lessons guided by licensed teachers, parents are treated to informative sessions led by special speakers. Topics range from school system insights to discussions on safety and child development. This dual-track approach ensures that both parents and children gain valuable knowledge in an environment that encourages open dialogue and questions. As the lessons and presentations conclude, families reunite for a shared dinner and fellowship. This communal gathering provides an opportunity for everyone to share their experiences, discuss what they've learned, and forge connections with other families in the district. The sense of community is palpable as parents and children come together to celebrate the shared values and goals that bind them.



EL Family Night, continued

The success of EL Family Nights extends beyond record attendance numbers. The program has proven to be profoundly impactful, fostering meaningful connections between teachers, students, and parents. The relaxed and welcoming atmosphere allows for genuine interactions, breaking down barriers and creating a sense of camaraderie among all participants.

As we reflect on three years of EL Family Nights, the resounding success of these events is evident. The program has become a cornerstone for our EL families, uniting families and educators in a shared commitment to learning, connection, and joy. With each passing night, the district continues to illuminate the path towards a brighter, more engaged future for all involved.

“Is this real life or am I dreaming?!” – 4-year-old sibling during the holiday lights tour

“I had a lot of great conversations about how parents were glad they got to do something special with their kids for a night. It was such a fabulous night.”- Alison Ault, EL teacher

“The morning after family night, all my students rush up to me and cannot wait to tell me all the fun things they did at family night.” - Cassie Sanders, EL teacher



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