

NEXT STEPS

Changes

- Begin family outreach and parent education about the event at least two weeks in advance so families can plan ahead and arrange transportation.
- Develop parent ambassadors to help spread event information and encourage community participation.
- Recruit student volunteers from multiple grade levels to build a sustainable volunteer pipeline.
- Advocate for district-wide family engagement events to expand community impact beyond a single school.

Maintenance

- Continue hosting regular Game Nights and family events to sustain school-family partnerships.
- Advocate for permanent school programs rather than one-time events to build lasting community engagement.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my family for their support. I also want to thank Principal Wilson, our teachers, staff, and the 8th grade Softball Spartans volunteers for their dedication. Most importantly, thank you to our students and families who made this event a success.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Family Engagement Game Night



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY/Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center

Mia
Columbus, OH

INTRODUCTION/NEED ADDRESSED

As PTO President, I believe every family deserves a welcoming opportunity to connect with our school community. Research shows that family engagement leads to improved academic outcomes, better attendance, and stronger student well-being. When parents and students have the space to connect, share, and support one another, students feel that unity and thrive because of it. I saw an opportunity to create a fun, inclusive event where families and education come together as partners leading to the family Engagement Game Night.

GOAL and OBJECTIVES

Goal: Create a school culture where every family feels welcomed and connected, strengthening the partnership between Starling K-8 and its families to support student success.

Objectives:

1. Increase Awareness: Educate families about school programs, the PTO, and available resources.
2. Build Connections: Create meaningful in-person interactions between families, teachers, and staff.
3. Strengthen Partnerships: Foster better communication between parents and school leadership.
4. Recruit Volunteers: Connect interested families to the PTO and school volunteer opportunities.
5. Celebrate Community: Recognize student and volunteer contributions through the event.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DESCRIPTION

Planning & Coordination (Weeks 1–2)

- Hold planning meeting with school administration to confirm venue, technology, staff roles, and food.
- Finalize volunteer roster — recruit teacher and student volunteers through principal and Family Ambassador.

Family Communication & Promotion (Weeks 2–3)

- Distribute flyers through student backpacks, school digital newsletter, and PTO social media pages.
- Conduct direct phone/text outreach for hard-to-reach families, including those with language barriers.

Event Preparation (Week 3–4)

- Secure all materials and supplies; school provided all games and food at no cost to the PTO.
- Conduct pre-event volunteer walkthrough to brief all team members on roles, layout, and timing.

Event Execution (April 22, 2026)

- Set up activity stations, check-in table, PTO recruitment table, and resource displays beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- Host Family Engagement Game Night from 4:30–6:00 p.m. — welcome families, facilitate activity stations, connect families with school resources.
- Distribute and collect post-event satisfaction surveys at exit.

Follow-Up & Evaluation (By April 30)

- Complete post-event debrief; compile attendance and survey data; submit summary report to school administration.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Increased Family Presence

- 50+ family units attended, meeting the event goal and demonstrating strong community interest.

Stronger School-Family Connections

- Families built direct relationships with teachers, staff, and school leadership in a welcoming setting.

Positive Community Feedback

- At least 80% of survey respondents reported a positive experience and felt more connected.

PTO Volunteer Growth

- The PTO parent recruitment table collected contact information from families interested in joining or volunteering.

Student Recognition

- 8th grade Softball Spartans volunteers were rewarded with a special lunch, reinforcing positive school participation.

EXPECTED CHALLENGES

Scheduling & Attendance Barriers

- Some families face work obligations or transportation issues during the 4:30–6:00 p.m. window.

Reaching All Families

- Families with language barriers or limited digital access may miss event information without multi-channel outreach.

Volunteer Coordination

- Coordinating teachers, student volunteers, and PTO members within a condensed time frame requires clear communication.