Back to School Bash

Centauri Middle & High School, North Conejos School District

Submitted by Jessica Shawcroft, jesshawcroft24@northconejos.com

In Fall 2025, Centauri Middle School and High School held the schools' first-ever Back to School Bash. The goal was to kick off the school year with energy and connection while providing families with access to important resources, information, and a strong sense of community.

Centauri Middle School's counselor and Centauri High School's counselor were primarily responsible for the planning and implementation. They aimed to make the event both festive and functional, designed for students, parents, staff, and community members alike.



Local organizations and community partners attended and provided information regarding youth programs, tutoring options, mental health programs, low-income supports, and medical information to families. The planning team invited a variety of food trucks. Staff put out games, physical education equipment, and outdoor activities for families to do together while attending the event. Donated school supplies were available for families and students in need, and the PTO put together information on what they were doing for the school year, as well as a cookie decorating station. Finally, each building offered presentations for families to learn more about how the schools were handling certain topics that school year, with a time for questions afterward. Parents who attended the presentations filled out a raffle ticket to win prizes. The Back to School Bash encouraged families to see the schools, talk to the staff, ask their questions, provide feedback, and enjoy a relaxed and fun evening on campus. Organizers were delighted to see families staying well past the 6:00 p.m. end time to finish their dinner, play games, and enjoy the beautiful evening.

A Google Forms survey was sent to the community partners who attended the Back to School Bash to gauge the overall value of the event, the timeline, the resources offered, and how prepared each partner had felt for the event. A survey was also provided to middle school parents to collect feedback regarding school climate and potential improvements. One challenge noted was that some parents were unsure if the event was just for students or the entire family, highlighting a need for clearer messaging on the schools' part for future events.

The Back to School Bash was highly beneficial for students and families to learn what resources were available within the community, especially since local organizations were eager to increase their public outreach.