Welcome Kits

Dos Rios Elementary School, Greeley-Evans School District 6

Submitted by Natalie Rodarte, nrodarte2@greeleyschools.org



During the 2025-26 school year, many parents at Dos Rios Elementary School were navigating the education system for the first time alongside their children. To bridge this gap, Dos Rios staff created Welcome Kits. The goal was to provide essential school information and community resources to families at the beginning of their educational journey. When students enrolled mid-year or even at the start of the term, miscommunications arose if families were unfamiliar with school operations. These kits included attendance policies featuring a concise "snapshot" for quick reference, as well as an extensive directory of community resources such as community events, food options, contacts in case of emergency, and library resources. Notably, the kits provided specialized mental health support information covering areas such as postpartum depression, chronic illness, grief support groups, and veteran services.

Dos Rios' school counselor initiated the idea of Welcome Kits. Following this suggestion, the Parent and Family Advocate took the lead in curating and selecting the specific materials and resources included in each kit. This collaborative effort ensured that the final product combined professional guidance with practical, high-utility resources tailored to the specific needs of the school community.

The Welcome Kits provided a starting point for identifying and addressing the root causes of challenges families were experiencing. While many families were open with their children's schools, others were more reserved. Because a student's home environment could significantly impact their experience and performance at school, it was important for teachers and staff to understand any circumstances that were affecting the student.

Parent feedback primarily reflected positive surprise about the Welcome Kits. Key implementation challenges included tailoring resources to meet the specific needs of families based on student age and grade level. Additionally, maintaining the accuracy of the information within each kit required consistent oversight and frequent updates.

For those looking to replicate the Welcome Kit practice, prioritizing organization and ensuring all information is accurate and up-to-date is essential. It is highly recommended to include a formal disclaimer stating that the school is not officially associated with the community resources, external events, or any costs/charges incurred through those third-party providers. Maintaining a structured system for reviewing these kits annually or each semester ensured that families received the most reliable support available.