

Fun was had by all who attended Sheldon Middle School's Family Fun Night, which was held at Sheldon Middle School on Thursday, March 13 from 5:30-7:30 pm. This night was organized by Sheldon Middle School's staff, and it was designed to bring parents and students together for an evening of food and fun activities. Sheldon Middle School last hosted this evening in March of 2023; East Elementary hosted the event in 2024. Originally, this evening was billed as "Family Literacy Night", and learning sessions were created to promote reading among middle school students and their families, after eating pizza in the commons. Over time, other fun and entertaining activities were added—following a meal of burgers and chips—and the evening has evolved into the event it is now.

After finishing their meal, students and families could shoot baskets or play games—Spikeball or Cornhole—in the gym. When the evening activities began, participants had many options from which to choose. Evening activities ranged from academic to appetizing to athletic, as well as all sorts of activities in between. For those students and families wanting to challenge themselves academically, online games, a digital escape room, building with K'nex pieces and generational trivia sessions were hosted by Sheldon Middle School teachers. Others wanting an evening snack could take part in a cake walk or in making cheesecake chimichangas. After getting a snack, participants could burn some calories with a game of basketball musical chairs. Other fun activities that families enjoyed included bingo, music bingo, making shrinky dinks, playing a variety of tabletop games, making beaded bracelets, playing a card game—7's, or rolling the dice with Farkle. As you can see, a variety of activities were planned to accommodate the interests of all who attended.

An event such as this does not happen without support from local organizations who stepped up to help support this event. For example, the O'Brien Cattlemen's Association grilled the burgers for the evening's event. HyVee also donated water to go with the meal. Financial support also came from local organizations—a \$500 Iowa State Education Association grant (secured by the local Sheldon Education Association) and a \$250 gift card from Thrivent Financial—Sheldon. These additional funds were used to cover the costs of food and supplies needed by teachers for their educational sessions.

Next year's event will be hosted by East Elementary, and in 2027, Sheldon Middle School will again be the site for another evening of food, fun, and family. We hope to see you then.

Sheldon Education Association Vice President Jim Gude gave a check for \$500 to Cindy Barwick, Sheldon Middle School Principal. The \$500 was secured through an Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) grant, and these funds were used to purchase food and other supplies for the evening activities.

Other photos from the evening's activities:

Sheldon Middle School teachers served hungry guests before the evening's activities