Take Your Family to School Week
Multicultural Event Guide

Program proudly sponsored by:

The AXA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AXA US, is the proud sponsor of PTA’s Take Your Family to School Week. Its signature program, AXA Achievement, helps students and parents take the next step toward college. The AXA Foundation has been a proud National PTA sponsor since 2005.
What Is a Multicultural Event?

A Multicultural Event is one where families are invited to the school to share elements of their culture or ethnicity with other members of the school community through storytelling, food, dance, arts many other things that make cultures unique. These events can help families feel more welcome in school while creating social connections within the community. The objectives for the event are:

- To **educate students, families and school staff about the various cultures** represented within the school community
- To **build social connectedness** among students, family members, school staff and community partners.

Engage a diverse team of students, family members, school personnel and community members. Use the Sample Invitation Letter to generate interest among families. Consider:

- **All school staff**, especially history, music, art and dance teachers.
- **All families** representing the variety of ethnicities represented by all students in the school.
- **All students, especially student groups** that may help to plan or promote your event.
- **Community members** who may positively influence cultural awareness of students and members of your community, such as arts organizations, restaurants, musicians, dance organizations, ethnic clubs or organizations, etc.

Event Ideas

**Storytelling**

- Ask volunteers to share traditional legends, explain about history and culture or read a famous story.
- Encourage storytellers to dress up as famous heroes or heroines.
- Invite students, parents, grandparents and others to share memories from their own experiences.
- Facilitate a book swap area for families to donate a book about their culture and gain a book about another culture.

**Music, Dancing, Visual Arts**

- Set up a stage and host performances of music or dance—engage families or community artists.
- Exhibit student and family artwork that celebrates cultures across the globe.
- Host stations to give families hands-on experience with the arts of a culture (e.g., Origami, dance lessons, sing-alongs).
- Show family-friendly movies or television shows from other countries.
Games

- Include a game area where families can play games that are played by families around the world. Ask families to bring their favorites and check out the ideas at http://library.thinkquest.org/J0110166/.

Global Cuisine

- Invite all attendees to bring a favorite family dish (if allowed at the school).
- Reach out to local restaurants to offer in-kind donations or to exhibit with food samples.
- Host cooking demonstrations for global cuisine or cooking methods (e.g., sushi making).
- Follow your school district’s guidelines for food provided during after-school events.
- Ask cooks to list each ingredient on a notecard to place in front of every dish and avoid common allergies such as nuts, soy, eggs and shellfish.

Miscellaneous

- Incorporate a scavenger hunt by giving participants questions that they need to answer about various cultures.
- Decorate with maps and visual symbols from family history.
- Include a laptop or tablets where families can investigate their last name and heritage further.
- Create a passport for families to get stamped as they visit different stations throughout the event.

Recommended Resources

- PTA Take Your Family to School Week – www.PTA.org/TYFTSW
- Family Tree – http://www.FamilyTree.com/Culture
Invitation Letter to Families for Multicultural Night

{Insert PTA logo}

{Date}

Greetings families of {insert school name},

During Take Your Family to School Week, we are hosting a multicultural night! This is a great opportunity for you to share your culture with the rest of the school community.

What:  Multicultural Night {or other name/event decided upon}
When:  {Insert date} at {insert time}
Where:  {Insert location. If at school, please include room(s)}

Help us bring one or more aspects of your ethnic heritage to life for the students and families of our school community! We are looking for:

- Storytellers
- Musicians
- Dancers
- Art
- Foods (either store-bought or with ingredient cards)

{Insert name}, {insert role at school or PTA}, is looking for your ideas! Email {insert address} or call {insert number}.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

{PTA President}