

Subject:

GOAL High School South Springs Open House Brings Students, Families and Community Together

GOAL High School's South Springs location welcomed students, families and community members to its "Cuts and Kicks" Open House on July 30, creating an evening focused on connection, community resources and back-to-school support.

The event brought together approximately 17 families and 22 students for an afternoon of food, giveaways and opportunities to engage with local businesses and GOAL staff.

Organized by Michael Ramirez, a social studies teacher at GOAL High School's South Springs location, the event was designed to help students build relationships and feel connected before the start of the school year.

"Organizing Cuts and Kicks allowed me to help bridge connections from GOAL to the local business community," said Michael Ramirez. "Being able to go and speak about GOAL to all of the local businesses was special and ignited a deeper appreciation and passion for what we do here at GOAL." Students and families enjoyed free haircuts, manicures, food and giveaways throughout the event. Community partners generously donated services and prizes to help students prepare for the upcoming school year.

One of the event highlights came from local barber Ben Currie of Grey.ish, who provided three free haircuts during the event. GOAL also gave away six additional boys' haircut vouchers and three girls' haircut vouchers donated by Kinfolk Salon. Attendees also had the opportunity to win Shoe Dept. Giveaways.

"I wanted the students to experience connections before success, so to speak," Ramirez said. "Rather than having the first interaction be STAR and orientation, this was a great way to build relationships. As I was brainstorming a good back-to-school event, it hit me: give the students what they want. Cuts, clothes and kicks. Then I thought, 'How can we bring GOAL and the community closer together?'"

According to Joseph Hites, assistant principal at GOAL's South Springs location, the event showcased the strong support network surrounding GOAL students.

"Despite the intense heat that day, seeing community involvement and students getting haircuts was impressive," Hites said.

Hites said one of the most rewarding aspects of the event was seeing it grow into a meaningful back-to-school tradition.

"We are excited about growing each of our family and community engagement events, and Michael did a wonderful job creating this special back-to-school event," Hites said. "It will only continue to grow and be more successful with each year."

Both Ramirez and Hites emphasized that events like Cuts and Kicks reflect GOAL's commitment to supporting students both inside and outside the classroom.

"GOAL supports the whole student," Ramirez said. "We care about setting these students up for success and experiences to prepare them for the next stage in life. Being able to provide students with community engagement opportunities and some assistance with back-to-school resources is just a part of how we make sure we support the whole student."

"The most special part of GOAL is the compassion and effort that our staff puts into supporting the whole person and not just the academic student," Hites added.

The event was made possible through the support of local businesses, community partners, and volunteers.

"These services are not only what our students spend much of their resources on, but these services are also part of the fabric of the community," Ramirez said. "We serve our students through education, and they serve students through societal needs."

Ramirez hopes attendees left with a clear understanding of GOAL's commitment to the community.

"I hope that the message is that GOAL is here for the kids and the community," he said.

GOAL would also like to recognize all participating vendors and community partners whose generosity helped make the event a success.

About Goal High School

GOAL High School is a statewide, multi-district charter school authorized by District 49. GOAL is a Microsoft Showcase School that provides online curriculum with in-person support at 40 student drop-in centers across Colorado. Students can take college courses for free, earn career and technical certifications, and receive excellent social and emotional support. GOAL strives to help all students achieve their full potential in a caring, supportive, and personalized environment. In turn, students become productive members of society.

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