

Annual bash attracts students, families

Stambaugh Charter Academy's 10th annual Back to School Bash – scheduled more than a week before the first day of school – was a hit with students, their families and the community again this year, and earned the school a positive segment on the newscast of the local ABC affiliate, WYTV.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to connect with students, their family members, and others in the community,” explained Principal Wendy Thomas. “We encourage new and returning students to come in to visit their classrooms and meet their teachers. And it’s an opportunity for parents who may be interested in enrolling their children to walk through the building and meet some of the staff to determine if Stambaugh is a good fit for their kids.”

The event featured a bounce house, a rock climbing wall, face painting and, of course, free food, which is always a big draw. But one of the most popular activities was free haircuts and styling, including braids, which are popular among female students.

Stambaugh serves a very transient student population. Of the 470 students currently enrolled, 250 are new to the school this year. Engagement is important, and the annual bash serves to connect teachers and staff to both students and parents prior to the beginning of the new school year.

The event, scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m., had the feel of an open house, with folks coming and going at their leisure. The school will host an open house in September – a second chance for those unable to attend the bash, and an opportunity for additional contact with parents who did attend the bash and are eager for an update on student progress early in the school year.

According to Thomas, establishing relationships with students helps alleviate disciplinary problems.

“We were pleased to see students returning to Stambaugh this year at the 2019 bash – as well as about 100 new students and their family members,” Thomas said. “There’s great value in connecting with students and their families ... that’s why we continue to host the bash year after year.”

