



Introducing the Backpack Food Program

Dear Parents:

In an effort to make sure students have nutritious food when school is out, Feeding Our Communities Partners and the Greater Mankato Area United Way will send child-friendly food home in student backpacks before dismissing for weekends and school breaks. This is available for students in kindergarten through third grade. If this would be helpful as you work to provide for your family, **please sign and return the bottom of this sheet by February 12.** Everything possible will be done to keep this confidential.

Breakfast, lunch, and a snack will be provided for each day of the break. The first food pack will go home on Friday, March 5. If you have any questions about the BackPack Food Program, please contact me at (507) 345-4287 or lkoppe1@isd77.k12.mn.us. More information about the BackPack Food Program can be found at www.feedingourcommunitiespartners.org.

Sincerely,

Les Koppendrayer
Principal

The BackPack Food Program is an initiative of Feeding Our Communities Partners with support from the Greater Mankato Area United Way, the Mankato Clinic Foundation, and Immanuel St. Joseph's - Mayo Health System.

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PLEASE RETURN BY February 12

Please send food home with my child (print name): _____

My child's teacher is: _____

My child has food allergies (please list): _____

My child has dietary restrictions (for example, NO PORK): _____

I give permission for my child to fill out anonymous surveys (see back): YES NO

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sarah Sifers, Ph.D. from Minnesota State University, Mankato will be researching whether parents/guardians and students like and benefit from the Backpack Food Program. She will be collecting surveys one time from kids, parents, and teachers about whether they like the Backpack Food Program. The surveys are anonymous and take about five minutes to complete. They ask questions about what you like or don't like about the program. She also will be collecting anonymous surveys from students about their hunger level. The surveys are anonymous and take about 15 seconds to complete and will be given six times over the semester.

All information obtained in this project will be kept private by the staff of this research project. All information will be stored in a locked file cabinet. There are no identified risks of participating in the surveys and doing so will help make the Backpack Food Program better. Your child will receive food each weekend and during breaks even if he or she doesn't fill out the surveys or if you don't fill out the survey.

If you will allow your child to fill out the surveys, please return the form below to Franklin Elementary School by February 12. Kids will fill out hunger surveys starting February 22. If you have any questions about the surveys, please contact Sarah Sifers at 507-389-5755 or sarah.sifers@mnsu.edu.

You can contact the Minnesota State, Mankato Institutional Review Board Administrator, Dr. Anne Blackhurst, at 389-2321 or anne.blackhurst@mnsu.edu should you wish to talk to someone about the rights of research participants.