



Dear Community Members,

We are excited to inform you that the *Kids' Weekend Backpack Program* will continue to service all K-4 Butler area elementary schools for the 2018-2019 school year. The staff, parents, and community of these elementary schools as well as the Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc. have come together to help fight hunger. Though it seems hard for most of us to imagine, many students go home to a house with little or no food supplies. They may receive breakfast and lunch at school during the week, but when the weekends come, they are limited as to how much they may have to eat. This program is designed to assist students who may be in need of weekend food supplies. At this time, there are no eligibility requirements for participating in the program and is free to anyone who feels that their child needs something more to eat over the weekend.

Each student participating in the program receives a plastic bag each Friday packed with child-friendly, single-serving snacks and easily prepared meals. The bags are delivered to the students' homerooms and discreetly placed in their book bags. Each child receives two breakfast items, two entree items, and a variety of five additional items. The food selections are items that include proteins, whole grains, fruits, and dairy products.

The entire *Kids' Weekend Backpack Program* is funded by donations, which will be shared among all of the elementary schools. We are happy to announce that this year the program will continue to be supported by the Butler AM Rotary Club, St. Vincent DePaul, Sam's Club, the YMCA, and various community groups and churches. In the hopes of expanding this program to other schools in our district, we will continue to need the support of the **entire** community. We are hoping that other community organizations, churches, and businesses will find our project worthy of their support. Together we can make a difference in the lives of the children in our school district.

A list of suggested food items for donation is located on the back of this letter. Food donations can be dropped off in the lobby of any of the K-4 elementary schools in the Butler Area School District. Any business or community member that would like to make a monetary donation can send it to:

McQuiston Elementary School
c/o Kim Thomas
210 Mechling Drive
Butler, PA 16001

(*Please make checks payable to the **Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.** and write "*Kids' Weekend Backpack Program*" on the memo line.)

For more information about the *Kids' Weekend Backpack Program*, please contact Kim Thomas at kimberly_thomas@butler.k12.pa.us or call 724-214-3900.

We are hoping for your support in our fight against child hunger!

Sincerely,

The Kids' Weekend Backpack Program Committee and The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.

Suggested Food Items for Donation

(*All items must be non-refrigerated and require only water when making the meal.)



- Single-serve cereal
 - Granola bars
 - Instant oatmeal
 - Cereal bars
- Easy Mac or Velveeta Single Serve
- Chef Boyardee items
- Cans or pouches of tuna or chicken (*individual servings*)
 - Ramen/Oodles of Noodles
- Microwavable pasta, rice, or other meals
 - Soups (*canned or microwavable*)
 - Hormel Compleats Meals
 - Single-serve fruit cup
 - Single-serve applesauce
- Single-serve pudding or jello
 - Sandwich crackers
 - Handi-Snacks
- Single-serve goldfish
- Microwave popcorn
- Nestle Nesquik Lowfat Milk
(*non-refrigerated, individual servings - 8 fl oz*)
 - Juice boxes

*There is a box located in the lobby of all K-4 elementary schools in the Butler Area School District for food donations.