

Backpack program offers weekend food for local Holyoke students

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Twenty percent of Holyoke School District students have signed up to be part of a weekend food program called the Backpack Program.

Sponsored by the high school and junior high student councils, the first backpacks will be sent home with students Friday, Dec. 6.

It's intended that registered families will receive a bag per student each Friday. The bags or backpacks will include two breakfasts, two lunches and a variety of fruits, vegetables and snacks.



HHS student council members, pictured from left, Ashley Humphreys, Trevor Dalton and Makayla Spitz, stock the shelves in preparation for the Backpack Program in Holyoke School District. Spitz holds one of the bags that the weekend food will be packed in.□□

—Enterprise photo

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Students at Holyoke JR/SR High are excited to get this project under way as they've seen a need in the school and community to help every student who needs it.

All families in the school district received a letter explaining the program and offering them a chance to sign up to receive a bag/backpack each week.

Advisors Summer Maloney and Allie Balog emphasized that all student information will be kept confidential and names will only be used by the advisors. Student Council members will only be packing the backpacks and will use a number system to identify students.

When researching programs to help start up a Backpack Program, Maloney said they found that a Severe Need School is defined as having 40 percent or more students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

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