Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Buddy Bags?

Buddy Bags is a program that was started in the Lincoln County R-III School District in 2011. It provides food for students/families in the district who may need a little extra help feeding their families on the weekends. Each bag supplies each child in the program with enough food for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 snacks for the weekend. We also try to send a larger bag of food on long weekends or extended breaks like Christmas Break and Spring Break. Though we currently feed 270 students each weekend (Pre-kindergarten through high school), we believe our need could actually be around 400 students district-wide.

2. How much does each Buddy Bag cost?

Each bag costs approximately $5.50 per child, per week.

3. What can I donate?

You can donate food or money to support the program. You can find a list of foods that provide on this website.

4. When and where can I donate?

You can donate food any time by dropping off items from the list to Lincoln Elementary. If you would prefer to send items with your own child to his/her home school, you may do that as well. The staff at those schools will know where it needs to go. If you would like to make a financial donation, you may drop it off or send it to our Central Office Building. Checks can be made out to the Lincoln County RIII School District. You may put Buddy Bags on the memo line. We are currently working on creating other drop off points throughout the county.

5. How long does it last?

Buddy Bags will continue as long as funds allow. In 2011, we began sending bags home in February and fed 65 students. We were able to provide 1 box of food at the beginning of the summer and 1 box at the end of the summer with some of the families too, in order to help them out. Our goal is to send home even more bags each weekend during the 2014-2015 school year.

6. How are Buddy Bags prepared?

Each Early Release Wednesday after the TBHS students have been dismissed from their classes, the in season athletes and/or volunteer students assemble the bags. The bags are then transported to each building on Thursday and sent home with students on Friday. Students who receive a bag are sent to the office with their backpack and they are given their bag of food to put inside their backpack. We believe this to be a discreet way of distributing the bags.

7. Where does the food come from?

Food for the Buddy Bag program is gathered from your donations as well as those from Operation Food Search. Most weeks, it is also necessary for us supplement those donations with a purchase from our local Wal-Mart. Both Operation Food Search and Wal-Mart have been amazing partners in this journey.

8. How can I get involved?

There are several ways you can get involved in this program. You can donate food items or donate money to purchase the food for the bags. In addition, some organizations have held food drives at their venues which have yielded amazing results!

9. Who do I contact?

You can contact Amy Porter at the Lincoln County RIII Central Office Administration Building, 636-462-6098 x 50906 or porter@troy.k12.mo.us, Donna Vickrey 314-691-4975 or Lauren Kleck at laurenkleck@gmail.com

Thank you so much for your interest the Buddy Bag Program!