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Director
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Partners in Education
*Community, Parent and Family
Engagement*
Office: 601-960-8905

March 30, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

Jackson Public Schools offices of Partners in Education and Child Nutrition are working together to provide nutritional support to our scholars and their families during school closures, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Two specific plans are in place:

Thursday and Friday Dinner Meals, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Community partners have provided funding for us to serve 500 hot dinner meals at each of the following JPS sites: Bates Elementary/Cardozo Middle (South Jackson), Galloway Middle (Central Jackson) and Chastain Middle (North Jackson) on March 26 and 27, for a total of 3,000 meals.

We are seeking additional sponsorships to continue this weekly support, two days per week, to our families. A donation of \$4,628 will provide two days of 500 meals- a total of 1,000 servings at each site. That equates to \$4.63 per person.

Weekend Family Food Boxes, Friday pick-ups, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

We have partnered with Footprint Farms to provide 7-8 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. Families will receive fresh produce from their farm and partners. Each pack will include leafy greens, other mixed vegetables (e.g., sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, tomatoes, peppers, squash, broccoli, and cucumbers) and fruit. Selections will vary based on season and packing dates. Families can pick up this produce while they are receiving the hot meals on Fridays to provide meal support over the weekends. The produce is \$11.50 per pack, delivered in food safe bags. We'd like to start this distribution with 450 packs of produce, 150 per site; this would require a donation of \$1,725 per site, per week.

The number of dinners and produce packages can be adjusted based on demand and available revenue.

We are responding to an unprecedented situation, requiring a level of unprecedented creativity and expediency. To facilitate this assistance quickly, donations to support the Weekend Family Produce Packages should be made payable to **Footprint Farms**. Donations to support the Thursday and Friday Dinner Meals should be made payable to **JPS Child Nutrition**. In both options, Partners in Education staff members will arrange to pick up the checks, provide a receipt immediately, and follow up with written acknowledgements of your donations from our office. Please email [Thea Faulkner](mailto:Thea.Faulkner) to arrange a time for us to pick up your donation.

Page 2

Additionally, we are also pleased to offer an online giving option through a GoFundMe account, utilizing the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/foodforjpsfamilies>.

This option has been established in partnership with the Jackson Foodies organization, led by JPS alumnus, Atty. Carlyn Hicks. Please note that this is the only external fundraising effort we have established. Please notify me immediately if you are approached to give to any other group or individual, representing themselves as working on behalf of Jackson Public Schools.

Donation acknowledgment forms for all donations will indicate that funds received have been used to provide meals to JPS families during school closures –as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Please consider a donation of any amount to help us continue this initiative. Should you have any questions, please email me at [Thea Faulkner](mailto:Thea.Faulkner@jpsd.net) or call me at 601-209-4341. Thank you for your consideration, and be well.

Sincerely,

Thea

Thea T. Faulkner, Director
Partners in Education
Jackson Public Schools