

The Wellsville-Middletown R-1 is establishing a program that will provide food for some of our students to take home for the weekend. This system is called Buddy Packs. We are aware that some of our students come from nutritionally challenged environments. This means that most of the healthy foods that these children receive is coming from the school. In the United States, more than one out of six children lives in a nutritionally challenged household, which means they often do not know where or when they will get their next meal.

Children from these types of households are likely to be behind in their academic development compared to other children. Insufficient nutrition puts children at risk for illness; it affects their cognitive and behavioral development, and places them in jeopardy of developmental delays.

Buddy Packs are bags filled with kid-friendly, nutritious food that students take home over the weekend or holiday periods to supplement their meals. Each week, Buddy Packs are filled by local volunteers and placed in the child's back pack on Friday. The program continues week after week throughout the school year or as needed to keep the growing youngsters happy and healthy. We are starting this program in grades Kindergarten through 3rd and participation in it will be based on the student's or family's eligibility for state or federal assistance such as the school lunch program.

To date we have identified 20 students in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that meet the criteria to participate in the program. The cost will be \$180.00 per child per year. Please consider contributing to this worthwhile program. Checks can be made out to Wellsville-Middletown R1 attention Buddy Packs.