



FOCUS Family Backpacks

A free weekend food program for school-aged children and their families.

How it works: Every Friday, a plain backpack containing a meal, plus a breakfast item, is placed in your child's locker. The backpack contains a recipe and all the non-perishable ingredients needed to create the meal. Your child returns the empty backpack to the office on Mondays.

***In addition to our usual rotation of meals, families also have the option to receive traditional Asian food as an alternative.*

To sign up, you can:

1. Fill out the enrollment form on the back and have your child return it to school
2. Contact your school's FOCUS Family Backpacks Representative:
 - COA- Audrey Naeyaert, School Social Worker, at (715) 424- 6786
 - Grant- Audrey Naeyaert, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6766
 - Grove- Paige Minton, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6769
 - Howe- Aisha McDade, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6772
 - Lincoln- Tessa Gruszynski, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6750
 - Mead- Aisha McDade, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6777
 - Pitsch- Tessa Gruszynski, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6779
 - River Cities- Tessa Gruszynski, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6798
 - THINK- Audrey Naeyaert, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6784
 - Washington- Paige Minton, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6788
 - Woodside- Paige Minton, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6793
 - WRAMS- Audrey Naeyaert, School Social Worker, at (715) 424-6740

OR

3. Stop in the office at school

You will be contacted regarding whether or not you will be participating in the program, and you will be asked periodically as to whether or not you wish to continue using the program.

The FOCUS Family Backpacks Program is working to alleviate hunger by providing a nutritious weekend meal in a backpack for families facing financial difficulties at Wisconsin Rapids Elementary and Middle Schools.





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Eligibility:

Any student and their family are eligible for a backpack (as supplies are available) if they meet the following:

- Contact your child's school social worker and/or school counselor
- Enrollment form filled out and returned to the school social worker and/or school counselor (below)
- Signed a waiver (below)

Protocol for Receiving Backpack:

- Student will receive a backpack on Friday or at the end of the school week.
- Student will return the empty backpack on Monday morning.

Enrollment Form:

(Please fill out one form per family)

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Student receiving the backpack: _____ Phone Number: _____

Names & ages of **all children** living in home: _____

Names & ages of **all adults** living in the home: _____

Meal Preference (Please select one):

- ☐ I prefer the 6 meal rotation (pasta, tuna casserole, chicken & rice, chili, chicken casserole, taco soup)
- ☐ I prefer traditional Asian meals (Kuv nyiam noj cov zaub mov Esxias dua lwm yam)
- ☐ I prefer the 6 meal rotation with a hot plate & basic utensils for use in a motel or other unique living situation

(OPTIONAL): Does your family qualify for the free school lunch program? Yes ____ No ____

(OPTIONAL): Presently, does your family qualify for homeless services (living in motel/car/campsite, in transitional housing, in shelter or foster care, with another family due to loss of housing or economic hardship, in section 8 or military housing, or is student living in own apartment? Yes ____ No ____

(OPTIONAL): What is your race or ethnicity? _____

Waiver:

By signing this waiver, I _____ waive and release Rapids Family Backpacks and FOCUS from any liability, loss, claims, expenses resulting from consumption of food(s) packed within the backpack. These liabilities will include but are not limited to any health hazards resulting from improper or inappropriate handling and storage of food items.

I acknowledge that this waiver and release is being signed by me voluntarily, without coercion, duress, or undue influence and with full knowledge of its terms and effects. I have read the above waiver and release of liability and fully understand its contents.

Name (Print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

FOCUS Family Backpacks is a program of Feeding Our Communities with United Services (FOCUS), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to reduce food insecurity in our community.