

Dear Parents/Guardians,

August 2017

As your school counselor, I am also a contact person for several community programs that may be of interest to you. Please note that the following programs are in place again this year at Westgate:

- **Operation School Bell** is a resource in the community that offers clothing and other items to children as needed. The clothing is new, and the service is confidential and free to families that meet qualifications. Operation School Bell will begin on October 4-16th. This year, the deadline for signing up for Operations School Bell is September 16. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested. Again this year, there is a cap on the number of students that can be referred from each school.
- **Westside District Closet** is another resource that can provide a professionally cleaned, gently used jacket or coat to children. Some coats are also available for adults. The Coat Closet is open year round.
- **The Omaha Food Bank** offers **The Backpack Program** to students at our school. The Backpack Program provides ingredients for healthy meals for children for the weekend. These meals include protein, dairy, fruits, and vegetables. All of the food is child friendly (no preparation needed) and shelf stable. The food is delivered to the school for children to bring home in a bag on Fridays and have for the weekend. In the event that there is no school on a Friday, the bags would be delivered to bring home on the last day of the school week. This program runs through the school year. If you are interested in participating, please contact me so your child can be delivered a bag each week.
- **District Food Pantry** You may also contact me if you have other food needs that are not ongoing, as resources are available for those situations as well.
- **Holiday Assistance** During the winter holiday season there will be more opportunities for assistance.
- I encourage you to contact me if you are interested in these services, or any questions.

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