

Blessings in a Backpack

Park Lane Elementary School

Aurora, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Park Lane Elementary School, located in Aurora Public Schools, recently partnered with Blessings in a Backpack to provide extra meals for families in need. A representative from the organization initiated the partnership with the school and the principal jumped on the opportunity! Blessings in a Backpack works with Cigna to choose schools in which they donate healthy snacks over the weekend for students and families needing extra food.



Blessings in a Backpack normally gives small bags of food to students whose families are struggling, but Park Lane was given the opportunity to give each student a bag of snacks to take home. The family liaison received several boxes from Cigna twice a month and distributed the small bags of snacks to each student every Friday right before the bell rang.

Each student put the small clear bag of snacks in their backpack to take home for the weekend. The snacks included cookies, cheese crackers, beef jerky, canned fruit, cheese, cereal, and other healthy snacks. Cigna sends two different varieties of snacks that students can choose from. Staff report that students love it and look forward to their Friday snack day! Many students commented that this was the highlight of their week.

Park Lane's family liaison states: "We believe that Blessings in a Backpack owns up to its name, it is a blessing. The only downside to this was that Cigna was not able to come and meet our wonderful students for an assembly. A few students were able to write a thank you card to Cigna and we were able to show them our gratitude."

The liaison continues: "I would highly recommend this program to other schools in our district. This program was a gift from heaven for our students. They so enjoyed it! We are thankful that we are going to be able to have this program again next school year. The Blessings will continue for Park Lane students."

