

---

**RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY**

**POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION**

Tonight, the Board recognizes the following individual for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the Beaverton School District and the community.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Weekend food backpack program at William Walker ES – Ethan McCanta**

Ethan McCanta, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School, started a weekend food backpack program for students suffering food insecurity at William Walker Elementary School. Each Wednesday, Ethan delivers 22 meals of donated food (currently stored in the garage of his family's home) that is put into backpacks for students to take home over the weekend.

Ethan began his 8<sup>th</sup> grade project backpack program delivering food every other Wednesday, and recently increased deliveries to weekly. Each backpack contains food items that are ready to eat, including canned tuna fish, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, pudding and fruit cups.

Ethan was inspired by an article his humanities class read about the large number of homeless and hungry students in the Beaverton School District. Ethan spoke to his church, soliciting food donations, and was overwhelmed with support. He chose to work with William Walker Elementary School because his church has done work with them over the years, and they have a large number of student's who qualify for free and reduced lunch services. Ethan contacted the counselor at William Walker, Sheryl Lindenberg, who identified 13 families in need of weekend support with food.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School must complete a yearlong service project that culminates their experiences, using research, service learning, and data analysis.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade project has three main guidelines:

- Environmental
- Locally relevant
- Something you can make a real difference in

A foundational component of Rachel Carson lies within the commitment to service learning. Through site visits and work with community partners, students gather authentic data as a service to community efforts in restoration, preservation and monitoring of all local ecosystems.

Congratulations, Ethan on your successful project and thank you for your caring support of your fellow students!

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Ethan McCanta for his contributions to the School District.