

# Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer  
From: Tate B. Castleton, Principal  
Date: February 2, 2021  
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

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**COVID-19 UPDATE AT HES:** Currently there are no COVID-19 related challenges at Homedale Elementary School. While we continue to take every precaution possible to prevent the spread of the virus and to keep all students and staff safe, we are able to operate normally. We do not have any students or staff who have tested positive or who have a need to quarantine at this time, to our knowledge. Our hope is that this will continue until the end of the school year. We firmly believe that in-person learning is the best way for our students to learn, grow, and progress. We will continue doing all we can to ensure we can keep our doors open and continue learning together each day.

**ONLINE LEARNING UPDATE:** While we are still offering our families a choice to learn online, our numbers continue to drop as more students are returning to learn here in-person. Here are our current online numbers by grade level:

Kindergarten: 6  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 4  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 6  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 3  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1  
Special Day: 1

**Total: 21**

**Counselor Appreciation Week:** February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> was National School Counselors Week. Here at Homedale Elementary School, we are SO thankful for our counselor, Mrs. Garrett! Whether it's random acts of kindness, weekly life skills lessons, or helping a student survive a rough day, Mrs. Garrett does it all!

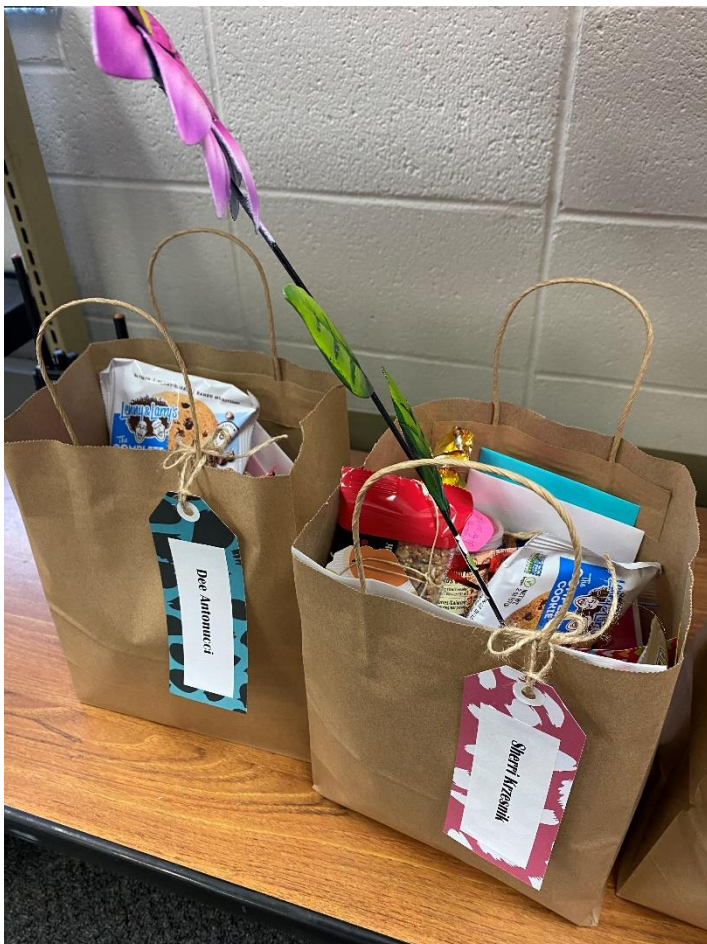


**PBIS EFFORTS CONTINUE – GRATITUDE BAGS:** In an effort to not only maintain all of the hard work we've put into implementing PBIS, as a leadership team we are always looking for ways to take our efforts to the next level. To do that we offer **GRATITUDE BAGS** to members of our staff! Each week, two or three staff members – including paraprofessionals, cooks, custodians, or anyone else who works at our school – are randomly selected and we place gratitude bags on a table in the teacher's lounge with each of their names on them. Everyone is then invited to put something small in the bags throughout the week. These items might include:

- A pack of gum
- A personal note or card
- A candy bar
- A gift certificate
- A variety of healthy snacks
- A small gift
- A favorite memory or memento
- A handmade gift

By the end of each week when the bags have been filled, we will deliver each bag to the recipients with the hope that it lifts their spirits, helps them feel appreciated and connected to our school family, and also provides some much-needed shelter from the cloudy storms of life during a pandemic.

Our hope is that this simple activity will be a fun, low-to-no-cost effort that is bound to create some buzz, spread some joy, and bring our school family closer together during this unprecedented school year!







**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- February 15<sup>th</sup> No School – President’s Day
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Student Support & Enrichment Day / Staff In-Service
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Parent-Teacher Conferences (virtual)