

Jackson Middle School opens food shelf for students, families

Thursday, December 15th, 2011



This fall, the staff at Jackson Middle School (JMS) launched the "Jaguar Junction," a food shelf for students and their families. Student learning advocates Lauren Bradley and John Warren are heading the project. Students who visit Jaguar Junction are identified by staff as needing assistance or they can let staff know they would like to access the food shelf. Students are provided backpacks that are filled with food and other items they need. Warren said families

who call the school and ask if resources are available are invited to use Jaguar Junction. In addition to offering non-perishable food and personal hygiene items, Jaguar Junction also has school supplies and some clothing, including coats, scarves, mittens, and T-shirts. Bradley said they have a good mix of everything and Warren said the items they run out of most quickly are socks and belts.

Jaguar Junction has been stocked through donations from staff, students, families, and community and church groups. JMS also held a collection night during parent/teacher conferences that was very successful. Many students in the school have worked to advertise Jaguar Junction through posters and other means of communication.

"If it wasn't for the Jackson students, none of this would be possible," Warren said.

"They are the ones who have gotten the word out and encouraged their parents to donate.

"This is a learning process for students. It's a feel-good thing to know that they are helping other Jackson families."

With 30 percent of JMS's students receiving free or reduced priced meals at school, there is a definite need for Jaguar Junction. Donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items can be dropped off at the school's main office.