

Opportunity Elementary School

Opportunity Elementary School, located in the heart of Central Valley School District, serves 450 students K-5. The school currently has about 75% of its students that qualify for free and reduced lunch and over 35 students who qualify for the HEART (homeless) program. The staff at Opportunity truly believes that all students can learn and are dedicated to setting high expectations and giving maximum support for every student every day. We have created an environment that supports the whole child and ensures the needs of every child are met.

Opportunity Elementary School has been active and successful at inviting in school adult volunteers who provide mentoring through tutoring and shared reading times for students in need of a special adult in their lives. Through this effort, it was quickly recognized that an essential need was presenting addition to their academic support. This prompted the school effort of Friday Healthy Snack Packs. Opportunity Elementary School has developed partnerships with neighborhood churches, WSU Food Sense and parent volunteers to provide an essential layer of support for the students served in the school. With the partnership of faith based organizations and the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank, homeless students and identified most at risk students come to the office every Friday afternoon to pick up a bag of healthy foods for the weekend. Many of our students may not have enough to eat over the weekend, so they are provided these snacks with the support of the community volunteer and partnerships.

Another example of promoting health is our partnership with WSU Food Sense. Food Sense teaches youth and adults, with limited incomes, skills and behaviors to eat healthy and maximize the value of their food dollars and food assistance benefits. The Food Sense staff teaches healthy eating in all of our classrooms monthly as well as reaches out to our families through newsletters and mobile food banks.

At Opportunity Elementary School, each member of the school community (staff, community organizations, parents) strives to identify and respond to the needs of its students. Looking proactively at the healthy attributes of a successful students have been a key component of this at Opportunity Elementary School and this effort and positive impact continues to grow. To date, approximately 50 backpacks go home with students, kindergarten through fourth grade families have received education through WSU Food Sense and all students in the school are taught not only healthy choices, but cost effective ways in meeting their healthy food choice needs.