



Teachers association to provide school supplies for seventh grade students

Incoming seventh graders will be prepared for their first day of high school thanks to the kindness of South Williamsport Area School District's teachers association.

The group of educators received a \$2,000 community grant from the Pennsylvania State Education Association to fill 115 drawstring backpacks with school supplies. Brenda Trimble, president of the union, and Emily Wagner, high school guidance counselor, worked together to get pencils, pens, binders, erasers, colored pencils and more for each student.



"This is one way we can help these children succeed," Trimble said. "We want to support all of our students."

The women chose items they knew students would be required to have in specific classes. In social studies, students sometimes need colored pencils to fill in maps while in English they need index cards to study their vocabulary words.

By giving them the tools to be successful in high school, they will hopefully feel more comfortable as they walk through the halls on their first day.

Students will receive their bags during the 15th annual Wacky Wednesday at 5 p.m. Aug. 23 in the high school cafeteria. The event is a seventh grade transition program that gets them and their parents acquainted with the teachers and the building.

"Change is hard," Wagner said. "Wacky Wednesday is a time for students to get answers to their questions about high school and combat their fears."

Students will get a grand tour of the high school by 11th and 12th grade peer mentors, practice opening their locker as well as participate in a scavenger hunt to win prizes.

The National Guard is bringing blow ups, games and other activities for the students to engage in while their parents sit through a presentation.

Pizza and other refreshments will be available that evening.

"This event sets the tone for the year," she said.

Creating this unique time to help students and parents feel comfortable in a new setting is important in sparking relationships with educators and administrators that will last until graduation day.

By bringing families into the building, everyone in the community is able to come together to support their children's education.