

Gearing up for school

by Pauly Denetclaw, August 10, 2017

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Nonprofit makes sure kids have the right tools

WINDOW ROCK

"Some of these parents do need help with getting school supplies," said Ramon Begay, the parent educator and liaison for Tséhootsooí Diné Bi'ólta'.

The kindergarten through sixth-grade school is one of 30 across the Navajo Nation that will be receiving backpacks filled with school supplies from the nonprofit Partnership With Native Americans.

The partnership will give approximately 7,000 backpacks to schools on the Navajo Nation.

The reservation has high rates of unemployment and families living at or below the poverty line.

"Some of our parents are with TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Food Stamps," Begay said.

This is the third time that Tséhootsooí has received school supplies from the partnership.

"These students and parents do look forward to if we're going to get backpacks and school supplies for our students," Begay said. "These students will come and ask me too, 'Hey, Mr. Begay, are we getting school supplies?'"

Added to the list of schools receiving school supplies is Many Farms Community School in Many Farms, Arizona. This will help families who can't get to border towns to buy their children school supplies, said Robert Dalton, parent coordinator for the school.

"We do live in like a remote area here in Many Farms," he said. "We're about a couple hours to Gallup and maybe a couple hours to Farmington. Some of our students here do not get a chance to go out into the towns to purchase those items."

Not only does it "alleviate a lot of travel" but it helps students succeed.

"It also motivates our students here," Dalton said. "It gives them positive encouragement, positive reinforcement and it gives them an opportunity to excel in the classroom."



Submitted
A student from Dennehotso Boarding School in Dennehotso, Arizona, opens up the backpack he received from the Partnership with Native Americans last school year.

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