

PRESS RELEASE

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Harrisonburg Education Foundation (HEF) celebrates city educators with 2nd Annual Thanks-A-Lotto

For the second year in a row, Harrisonburg City Public School (HCPS) teachers and staff will receive a very unique thank you Wednesday, May 10th, 2023. Harrisonburg Education Foundation (HEF) rallied the community to make this Teacher Appreciation Week event possible. Each staff member from HCPS will receive a scratch off card. Behind the silver scratch off circle will be either a handwritten note of gratitude from a community member or a prize that was donated by the community to thank HCPS staff for all their hard work. This year, thanks to in-kind donations 1 in 3 educators and staff will win a prize. Over 400 prizes will be awarded.

Executive Director Cody Oliver shares how last year's lottery was a highlight for staff and her board of directors, "last May's event was lively and engaging. It was great to see all staff from the district have a common moment of fun. Cards were passed along through mailboxes or some were personally delivered. Staff compared notes and celebrated with each other." She also shared, "the moment it was done, we started planning on prizes for next year."

Local businesses and individuals in-kind donations comprise the 400 scratch off prizes including items such as gift cards, plants, artwork and crafts produced by community members, and even a day off from the superintendent. HEF encourages all community members to say thank you during National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7-13) and throughout the year. They even offer an Honor an Educator opportunity through their website for those that are short on time.

It is still the giving season for HEF as they wrap up their second annual appeal, Flourish. From mid-February until school get's out, HEF raises unrestricted dollars to support their many initiatives including Innovative Educator Grants and student scholarships. Last year, the appeal raised more than \$65,000. Sponsorship opportunities are still available including supporting the new Cap & Gown Club to make sure Harrisonburg High School seniors all have their cap and gown on graduation day. HEF would like to thank lead sponsors Bob Wade Subaru and Lantz-Gochenour Group of Janney Montgomery Scott and all of our wonderful donors so far.

"It's great to see the Thanks-A-Lotto become a fun tradition and to feel the gratitude our community has for educators" adds Oliver.