

PRESS RELEASE

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Harrisonburg Education Foundation (HEF) celebrates city educators with first-ever Thanks-A-Lotto

Harrisonburg City Public School (HCPS) teachers and staff will receive a unique thank you Wednesday, May 4th, 2022. Harrisonburg Education Foundation (HEF) launches what it hopes to be its first annual Thanks-A-Lotto. 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.

Executive Director Cody Oliver shares that the lotto is a creative solution to meet a community dilemma: how do we say thank you to teachers and staff? "I am often asked how community members can show their support for teachers and staff. The lotto is a great way for staff members to get a small thank you and feel supported from our greater community. The scratch off is meant to be a moment of fun as we near the end of the school year."

Local businesses and individuals in-kind donations comprise the 200 scratch off prizes including items such as gift cards, plants, artwork and crafts produced by community members, and even the opportunity to have a school board member do the winner's job for an hour. Also in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week, the first week of May (May 2-6, 2022), HEF will be donating a Keurig, Soda Stream, or cooler and related snacks to each school within the city district.

In addition to encouraging the community to show their appreciation of schools, HEF provides Innovative Educator Grants for teacher-inspired classroom projects. The foundation also supports Harrisonburg High School students with scholarships, marking its 20th year this spring.

HEF will wrap up their first annual spring appeal, Flourish, at the beginning of June. We are nearly at our fundraising goal of \$65,000 with our community's amazing support during the recent Great Community Give (April 20, 2022), raising \$44,995. HEF asks you to Help Education Flourish through donations to fund Innovative Educator Grants, teacher appreciation initiatives, and the Backpack Coalition. Sponsorship opportunities are still available through the end of the school year. 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.

"We should thank our educators in many ways. They contribute so much to Harrisonburg." adds Oliver.