Dear Bosque Students and Families,

Thank you for reaching out to partner with our school. We’d like to share a little about our school and community.

Most Cesar Chavez students face enormous challenges. Many deal with poverty, lack of access to resources, immigration issues, homelessness, exposure to violence and substance abuse in family and/or community, foster care and shelter placements, and mental health issues related to chronic trauma. Many must juggle school and employment as their income is essential to their family’s survival. Some have their own children to care and provide for.

Statistically speaking, we are a 100% free lunch school. Every year we report our demographics to the state: student populations of about 83% Hispanic, 13% Native American, 1-2% Asian and 2-4% Caucasian. Our statistics show very high rates of “chronic absenteeism” (often about 75%), and a high “mobility rate” meaning students frequently enrolling and disenrolling from schools during the school year. Our demographics show approximately 25% of our Students with Disabilities and about 34% of our Students who are English Language Learners. Statistically speaking, we know that our average student is out of school for 1.25 years of their four assigned years of high school.

All these statistics point out a pattern of high needs and/or failing systems. They do not, however, tell us who our students are or what our students need when they enroll. Despite challenges, our students bring incredible strengths and light. Most are one or more grade-levels behind in school, yet they persevere instead of quitting. We remember that graduating from high school in four years is an arbitrary timeline and life is not one size fits all.

Cesar Chavez said, “You are never strong enough that you don’t need help.” We know that sometimes the whole course of our life is altered by learning the right thing just when we need it, finding/receiving the help we need when we’ve hit a low point, or simple acts of kindness that remind us of love and beauty in the world. “Help” comes in so many different forms.

We applaud our families and have huge respect for every student we meet who overcomes obstacles and continues to make the effort every day to do something positive, to get themselves to school, or to re-enroll in school and say, “I want to graduate. I want to make my family proud. I want to do something good with my life. . . .”

Thank you for your work on these community drives - non perishable foods, books, hygiene products and art supplies. Food boxes not only offer an immediate relief to stress but also remind us of the actions of kindness we all strive to take part in.

Sincerely,

Tani Arness, Principal, Cesar Chavez Community School
Sarah Herbert, Social Worker, Cesar Chavez Community School