

# Vernon County Health Department

318 Fairlane Drive (Co Hwy BB) PO Box 209 • Viroqua, WI 54665-0209  
Phone 608-637-5251 • FAX 608-637-5514



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## ‘STUFF THE BUS’

May 25, 2018

Dear Friends,

Back to school is an exciting time for families and children across the state. Sometimes the only difference between a good student and a failing student is having the basic supplies to do homework and participate in class. Not having those basic supplies can create a financial hardship for many families in our area. According to federal eligibility guidelines, students in households with incomes at or below 130% of the federal poverty rate receive free meals. Students approved for reduced-priced meals are from families whose annual income is under 185% of the federal poverty rate.

School District	County	Percent of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Meals
Data from Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction ( <a href="http://www.dpi.wi.gov">www.dpi.wi.gov</a> ) 10/2017		
De Soto Area School district	Vernon	43.29%
Hillsboro School District	Vernon	50.27%
Kickapoo Area School District	Vernon	54.60%
La Farge School District	Vernon	55.97%
Viroqua Area School District	Vernon	41.20%
Westby Area School District	Vernon	34.08%

Last year, Vernon County community members came together to donate backpacks and school supplies to children in need. This year, due to the need in Vernon County, we are planning to increase our collection efforts from 724 to 800 backpacks. To do this, we need your help!

There are many ways your organization can support our “Stuff the Bus” Campaign. We welcome volunteers for our Stuff the Bus Saturday event at Viroqua Walmart on August 4<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for help collecting items, unloading the bus, and assembling backpacks. We are looking for additional collection sites throughout the community where the public can drop off donations. We are also asking for donations of school supplies or money towards this community sponsored project. Your gift will help make a difference for the children in our area. For more information, to volunteer, for funding donations or to become a collection site for the “Stuff the Bus” Campaign, contact Betty Nigh, Public Health Nurse, at 608-637-5251 or [bnigh@vernoncounty.org](mailto:bnigh@vernoncounty.org). Monetary donations can be mailed to: The Vernon County Health Department, PO Box 209, Viroqua, WI 54665.

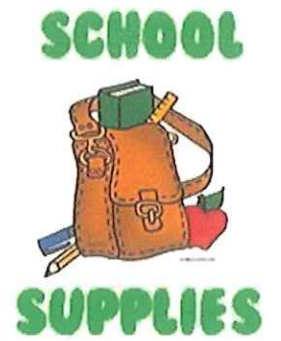
Warmly,

**Betty**

Betty Nigh  
Public Health Nurse

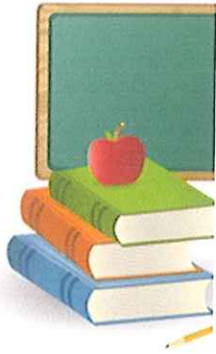


# STUFF THE BUS IS BACK AGAIN



If your child will need a backpack and  
supplies or just supplies for school

**Sign up here today!!!**



**2018**  
**Stuff the Bus**  
**Request for Supplies**



Please fill out the following information for each child and return to the Vernon County Health Department by August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

- E-mail: [bnigh@vernoncounty.org](mailto:bnigh@vernoncounty.org)
- Mail or drop off at 318 Fairlane Drive, PO BOX 209, Viroqua, WI 54665
- Call requests in at 608-637-5251

Parent's Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Child's Name: _____
School: _____
Grade: _____
Gender: _____
Child's preference: _____

Supplies will be provided to families that meet the income guidelines for the Wisconsin School Free and Reduced Lunch Program, on a first come first serve basis. We will do our best to provide as many supplies off your child's list, but you will have a few days before school starts if any supplies will need to be purchased on your own.

Supplies need to be picked up on August 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 504 So Main Street, Viroqua. The backpacks will be at the back of the church in the basement.