Hello ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

We are thrilled to announce SCHOOL NAME has partnered with our District’s Food & Nutrition Services, ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to pilot a food rescue project for the district. This new partnership will help reduce food waste in the school cafeteria, reducing the school’s carbon footprint, while supporting hunger relief in our community.

Food in the landfill decomposes and creates methane gas, which is 25 times more potent than CO2. Over 1 billion food items are wasted annually in U.S. schools. A food waste audit conducted by students recovered **289** unwrapped, unpeeled food items. This converts to **40** pounds of greenhouse gases emitted into atmosphere each day. Keeping food out of the landfill significantly reduces greenhouse gases

Additionally, our partnership allows us to tackle hunger issues in **(CITY)** and (**COUNTY)** by rescuing unconsumed food from the school cafeteria. The food that is rescued will be distributed to our community through **(DONATION CENTER)**.

Nourishing our students is our top priority, so we will not encourage students to “donate” any food they want to eat. Rather, we want to encourage them to choose an alternative for their leftover unopened, uneaten or unpeeled items.

**Items that can be rescued include**: unopened milk cartons, juice, fruit cups, yogurt, cheese sticks, hummus, cereal bowls, raisin boxes, crackers, ices, whole bananas, oranges. The items in this list that the students have not eaten will be placed by them on the share table rather than discarded.

As the pilot program begins, students will be educated as to how they can help keep the good, healthy food out of landfills and support their community at the same time. We will track the amount of food items rescued to measure our impact. **(DONATION CENTER)** will receive the rescued product to distribute to help those in our community.

With over **200** schools in our district, we have the potential for offsetting over **1.5 million pounds of greenhouse gases each year and serve over 11.7 million food items to the hungry.**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Food Recovery table. If you have any questions about the program, please contact …..

Sincerely