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MEDIA ADVISORY

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Lancaster ISD and City of Lancaster Public Safety Offices Team Up to Bring a Winter Wonderland Experience to Kindergarten Students

Lancaster, TX/Lancaster ISD –

The City of Lancaster Police, Fire and Public Safety departments have teamed up with Lancaster ISD to offer all Kindergarten students in the district the opportunity to participate in a Winter Wonderland experience at the Public Safety Building located at 100 Craig Shaw Memorial Parkway, Lancaster, Texas on Tuesday, December 18th from 9 AM to 1 PM.

“This is a great way for us to give back to our schools in the community,” City Police Department Administrative Assistant and Lancaster ISD School Board Trustee LaRhonda Mays said. “Some students will never receive a gift during the holidays and this is a way we can make sure they at least get one gift.”

The event will feature appearances from Santa and Mrs. Claus as well as various municipal leaders dressed as elves. During the event, students will receive a free gift as well as a bag of candy and popcorn. Every class will also have the opportunity to take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

“Partnering with the school district is a significant part of our plan to increase awareness of fire safety and employment opportunities in our fire services,” Lancaster Fire Chief Kenneth Johnson said. “I am so committed to this plan that I will be this year’s Santa Claus.”

This event will allow those work in the Lancaster Public Safety building to give back to their community. Lancaster Police Chief Samuel Urbanski said partnering with the school is a perfect way to provide students with something for Christmas.

“We want to make sure our children in the community have something for Christmas, but this becomes difficult once school is out for break,” Chief Urbanski said. “This event gives us a chance to have a captive audience while they are still in school to provide them some cheer during the holidays.”



Working with the public safety department to provide students with events like this demonstrates the district's mission which encourages local collaboration to aid student success and the joint strategic partnership of the city and district, known as Village 2020.

"We are excited to work with our city municipalities on events such as this," Lancaster ISD Superintendent Elijah Granger said. "We look forward to this event and many more to come."

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Youngman said that young people many times see officers as a threat and shared that partnering with the school for events like the Winter Wonderland experience will help students to see them as someone who is there to help them.

"We want them to know the city public safety building is a safe place to come if they need help," Youngman said. "When there is an emergency, we want children to know who we are and events like this helps us accomplish this."

When students arrive at the event, they will be greeted by elves and other public servants who work at the public safety building.

"We are so excited to collaborate with our school district for events such as this one," City of Lancaster Emergency Communication and Emergency Management Superintendent for the Delajér Walker said. "We want our children in the community to see us in a different setting other than an emergency."