

Dear (INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE) Families,

We are so excited to share with you that (INSERT SCHOOL NAME HERE) is planning to welcome our very first interactive honeybee hive in a few weeks! We have been working with a local beekeeper for several months to prepare for this addition to our pollinating friends.

I hope you will join us in this exciting opportunity to be on the forefront of science education! I am sure you have questions, and I would like to address a few of the most commonly asked questions that have come up during our preparation:

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### **Where will the hive go?**

The new hive will live (INSERT HIVE LOCATION HERE). This box has glass panels on each side, allowing all students easy viewing of the bees at work. The box is fully sealed, ensuring the bees will not be able to escape the box and enter our teaching space.

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### **Will this be safe and how do we keep from bothering the bees?**

The observation box is fully sealed and will not be handled by students. Outside on the wall is an entry point for the bees to exit/enter the hive. We are building a fence to barricade the entry point from student contact.

Students will be able to observe the bees as they descend from the roofline and down behind the fence. (INSERT ANY OTHER IMPEDIMENTS TO THE BEE EXIT/ENTRY AREA HERE). There is signage on the wall and we would like to share that bees fly vertically after leaving the hive since they do not prefer to forage around their hive. This helps them avoid having predators know where they call home!

We have checklists for the kids to use as they observe the beehive and population to ensure the safety and long-term health of our beehive.

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### **Will we have edible honey?**

Absolutely! Sometimes though with live honeybee hives it takes about a year for the hive to become established and produce enough honey to share. We will keep you updated and decide if we can harvest alongside our professional beekeeper's advice. This is a fully-working hive, but for educational purposes, it contains on a fraction of the bee population found in a commercial hive.

The grant organization, The Bee Cause Project, does have fundraising opportunities where we can sell official Bee Cause wildflower honey. We will let you know if a fundraiser is coming up to benefit the Bee Program!

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**Q: Is that safe? It seems scary, what if someone gets stung?**

This is such an important question and one we have worked hard to answer. Because of the incredible population of bees and pollinators that live here in (INSERT YOUR CITY/TOWN NAME HERE), there is already the possibility that anyone on campus can get stung by any number of native insects. Our new hive should not cause a noticeable increase or change in the bee population on campus, as bees travel up to 5 miles away from their hive to do their work. We have worked with the main office and parents of students with known allergies to have an action plan for those students in the event that he/she is stung by a bee.

All staff members have had Epi-Pen training (INCLUDE ONLY IF THIS IS THE CASE) and know how to administer the medication if needed. If a student gets stung and does not have a known allergy, we have an action plan for this as well. All staff are trained on how to identify and treat a mild reaction or anaphylactic shock and the steps to calmly and effectively triage and treat the sting.

Our nurses have Epi-Pens should they be needed (INCLUDE ONLY IF THIS IS THE CASE). We have developed general and individualized action plans for treating bee stings in the event they occur. A first aid kit specifically for honeybees will be in our clinic, containing an ice bag, an index card to be used to scrape the sting site remove the stinger, and a band aid. (INCLUDE ONLY IF THIS IS THE CASE) If a student is stung, his/her parents will be notified by a phone call.

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**Will the students learn about the hive?**

Yes! This is actually the most important and exciting part! The bees will be integrated into lessons for our students. (THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXAMPLE FROM ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS): Kindergarteners and first grade students will learn about living things and will be able to identify what bees need. Second grade students will learn about life cycles and will be able to learn about the life cycle of the honeybee. Third grade students learn about plants and animals native to Georgia's regions. Honeybees are vital to all of these regions and provide pollination for many plants that thrive here. Fourth grade students learn about food chains and food webs. They will find that honeybees are important for a healthy ecosystem. Finally, students in fifth grade will learn about the chemistry of honey and will learn about the classification of insects. There are so many fun opportunities for craft projects with beeswax, eating our honey, and educating everyone what an important role pollinator's play in our food system!

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***Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas as to how we can grow our Bee Program. We want to make sure every person involved is ready to welcome the bees and become a part of this pollinator friendly community!***

**For Questions or Other Inquiries Please Contact:**

Primary Contact:

Secondary Contact:

**Bee Club Information:**

(INSERT BEE CLUB INFORMATION HERE)

**Volunteer Information:**

(INSERT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION HERE)

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**For any questions about the organization from which we received this grant:**

**The Bee Cause Project**

[www.thebeecause.org](http://www.thebeecause.org)

Contact: info@thebeecause.org