

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT
Food For Thought Pantry at East High School

East High School is proud to announce the opening of **Food for Thought**, the first food pantry to be located inside a Madison Metropolitan School District school. The pantry will provide nutritional support to students and their families in need. The official opening for the pantry will be, February 8th from 3-4pm at Madison East High School, room 2030A.

Fifty-six percent of East High students qualify for free or reduced lunch, well over the State average of 37%. East High is ranked **16th** out of more than 500 high schools in Wisconsin in terms of total students eligible for lunch assistance. Students have to be at no more than 185% of the poverty level to qualify for free or reduced lunch. Since September 2015, East High has identified 114 homeless students and 20 students who are “unaccompanied” and who therefore are not eligible to participate in most community food pantries. The **Food for Thought** pantry will help improve these students’ access to food and will augment the food supply for those with unmet need who utilize community food pantries. In addition, the **Food for Thought** program will help provide in-school healthy snacks for students who are hungry during the school day.

This pantry has been developed under the sponsorship of Michael Hernandez, East High School principal and in coordination with an official East High student club, the Transition Education Program (which works with homeless students in the Madison Metropolitan School District), a group of community volunteers and several local agencies. **Food for Thought** is grateful to UW Health at the American Center and the First United Methodist Church in downtown Madison for providing vital support for the program.

In the future, the **Food For Thought** program looks to provide information about healthy, nutritious cooking and explore fresh food options for students (beyond school walls) throughout the year. **Food For Thought** sees East High as a pilot site and hopes to expand to serve other MMSD students.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission:

To improve food access and alleviate hunger and its root causes for students and their families in the Madison, WI area through activities promoting a food equity agenda.

Vision:

We seek to:

1. Ensure that every student has access to sufficient and nutritious food.
2. Collaborate, advocate, collectively educate, and inspire students, educators and the general public about food equity.

Values:

We affirm Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food. . .” We believe that it is a basic human right to have access to sufficient and nutritious food. We are therefore committed to meeting the needs of our community through student food distribution at public schools, advocacy, and support services that promote self-sufficiency and sustainable nutrition.

- We value listening, learning and teaching about the worth and diversity of every person and culture. We will treat others with dignity and respect.
- We value and encourage the pursuit/sharing of knowledge and expertise toward the goal of social justice.
- We value projects, programs, and ideas that reinforce and sustain our mission and vision.
- We value volunteers-- with their diverse talents, backgrounds, passion and commitment-- as partners for change.

For more information, please contact:

Food For Thought contacts: Joel Wish joelwish@gmail.com or Lea Aschkenase laschken@wisc.edu or Jim Green green6635@sbcglobal.net

East High contact: Helena White hswhite@madison.k12.wi.us
Food For Thought Pantry Club East High advisor

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT SUGGESTED FOOD DONATION
ITEMS: (NO GLASS CONTAINERS PLEASE):**

Canned foods-fish, beans, meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.
Macaroni and cheese
Peanut butter
Microwavable meals/bowls
Spanish, Asian and other international packaged foods
Soups-canned, boxed, and dried
Rice, pasta, instant potatoes
Crackers-individual and family size packages
Tomato sauce, salsa
Cereals-individual and family-size packages
Oatmeal
Pancake mix and syrup
Cake mix and frosting (for family celebrations)
Healthy snacks i.e. nuts, packaged dried fruit, power bars
Nutritious drinks/juice boxes -in plastic or carton
containers. (NO SODA, please)
Dry milk and non-perishable milk in cartons
Cooking Oil
Individual cups of applesauce, fruit cocktail, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATION ITEMS:

Adult size backpacks
Can openers
Metal eating utensils