



Bringing life and learning opportunities to Edina Public Schools students who are economically disadvantaged

## Edina Give and Go Supports College Possible at Edina High School

Last year, College Possible started a pilot program at Edina High School with the support of Edina Give and Go and Edina Public Schools.

Today, we are pleased to share this letter from Caitlyn Cole-Comacho, Senior Program Coordinator for College Possible Minnesota.

*College Possible is excited to start their second program year at Edina High School!*

*College Possible is a college access and success program that helps students with socioeconomic barriers achieve their goal of a college degree through intensive curriculum and coaching. In collaboration with Edina Give and Go, College Possible will be serving junior students and its first class of seniors at Edina High School. While the juniors are researching colleges and preparing for the ACT, seniors will be working through college applications, financial aid, and enrollment processes with the support of their College Possible AmeriCorps coaches. Last year, 99% of College Possible seniors applied to college, and 98% were admitted to a college! College Possible curriculum is delivered in small, classroom sessions in addition to one-on-one meetings throughout the school year.*

*Edina Give and Go has been another added layer of support for College Possible and our students as we get to know the unique Edina community. We're excited to see what all the students achieve this year!*

Help Edina Give and Go support programming like College Possible [Donate Here](#)

### Now collecting School Supplies

#### School Supply Drive

Edina Give and Go is collecting school supplies now through the end of September.



There are 3 options for drop-off of school supplies:

- In the lobby of the Edina Community Center.
- In our office (room 336 of the Edina Community Center)
- At the Edina location of Red's Savoy Pizza (4960 W 77th St, Edina, MN 55435). **Red's Savoy has generously offered to give you \$5 off of your pizza purchase if you donate school supplies!**

### Executive Director Update

September is the time we reclaim school year routine as we hang on to the distant memories of summer. This time of year also welcomes back regular practices and games where you are once again reunited with fellow parents as you cheer on your children. This fall I'd like to challenge you to include Edina Give and Go in your conversations on the sidelines or in the stands.

Last month, I had the privilege to share the mission of Edina Give and Go with Edina High School head coaches as well as some of the Edina Athletic Association staff and board. We all agreed that a family's income should not be a barrier to participation in athletics. Since these conversations, Edina Give and Go has seen an increase in the number of requests for financial help so that students can participate in athletics.

This is the power of conversation and knowledge. Edina Give and Go will grow and help more students when we keep sharing our vision. Next time you find yourself in the stands or on the sidelines, please share with your fellow parents the mission of Edina Give and Go and why you choose to support us. Don't stop there... keep sharing with coaches, teachers, and neighbors. Together we can bring life and learning opportunities to Edina Public Schools students who are economically disadvantaged. The more we share, the more support we can gather, and the more we can narrow the opportunity gap in our community.

Let's make this a year to remember. Last year we supported over 600 students through individual requests and programming. Let's work to double that number. To do this I need your help in sharing our story. Here's to a great school year, in and outside the classroom.

In Gratitude,

Abby Lugo

### Meet Gabe Moreno!

Gabe Moreno is the Academic Support Supervisor and AVID 7 Teacher at Valley View Middle School. For students there, he is a tireless advocate and great encourager. For Edina Give and Go, he is a critical link between our organization and the students at Valley View Middle School.

He got his start in education as a long term sub at Washburn High School in Minneapolis where he worked with college preparatory classes known as AVID. He says he wasn't sure at all how to go about advocating for students when he started, but he knew that his father only earned his college degree because his cello teacher encouraged him to pursue music education. Gabe states, "My dad was one week away from missing his last chance to take the ACT and consequently college enrollment, but an adult who knew him encouraged him to pursue his interests. As an AVID teacher and equity worker, I get to encourage students to pursue their interests as well as problem solve barriers to access."

Gabe has been impressed with the generosity of the Edina community. The PTO at VVMS is "phenomenal at supporting in-school costs like field trips and school supplies. At VVMS, The Hive supports after school activities in our building as well as school culture and climate. Local sports organizations frequently have scholarship procedures for access. Give and Go is able to support students in areas that are outside of these realms. I think that breadth of vision is a wonderful asset for traditionally underserved students. Edina Give and Go has been my go to funding source to cover gaps in scholarships for all kinds of access, especially for youth sports and summer enrichment. I also contact Give and Go when I'm just not sure who else to contact. Sometimes it is shoes for gym class, or an instrument for a musician, but when there is a student need, Give and Go has a desire to help. During the first year of 1 to 1 computer initiative at VVMS, Give and Go was ahead of the curve in supporting at home internet access for students."

"As Middle School educators, we try to support the development of the whole child. Give and Go is a great resource in this pursuit, because of their passion for students. Edina Public Schools is fortunate to add Give and Go to our fantastic support network of caring community members and organizations."

