

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

# Save the Date

### Happy New Year!

As you flip your calendar to 2017, be sure to note the date of our Annual Fundraiser: **Friday, April 7.**

We look forward to seeing you that evening for fun and fundraising!

### Meet one of our student Board Members

#### Ruchita Jain, Student Board Member

As a senior at Edina High School, I wanted to end my school career by giving back to the community and joining the Edina Give and Go Board was a great opportunity! I decided to serve as a student board member because I



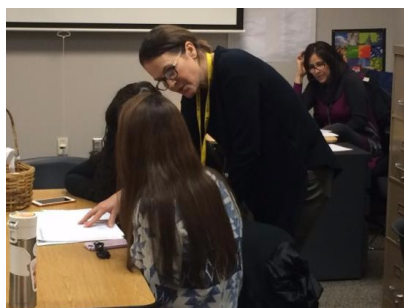
had seen how Edina Give and Go had provided many opportunities for students who didn't have the resources, and I wanted to be a part of that. As a student board member, I think I provide the perspective of students, for whom Give and Go is designed to help. Although

I've never served on a Board like this one, I have leadership experiencing from being on the EMUNC 2017 Leadership Team and an Officer of the French Club, among other activities. Both have taught me the behind the scenes efforts that are required to foster various programs at the high school. As a student board member, I hope to provide a unique perspective to the Board, especially of someone who has been a student at Edina for many years.

### Featured Program: Access

The Access program at Edina High School was designed to catch our students and to encourage, support, and help push them to an individual realistic path beyond high school.

Access is a great place to get help with:



Access Volunteer and Edina Give and Go Board Member, An Schulze, works with students

- ◇ The college search and application process
- ◇ Registration for ACT, SAT, or TOEFL exams
- ◇ Writing essays and personal statements
- ◇ Researching and writing scholarship applications
- ◇ Financial aid forms
- ◇ Career exploration
- ◇ Writing resumes
- ◇ Job applications and interviewing skills

It is open to all Edina High School students on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. in room 310 at EHS. Students are welcome to stop by during their free time (study hall, passing time, collaborative time, lunch, before/after school) to get their questions answered. No appointment is necessary.

While counselors are a student's primary resource for post secondary planning, Access is intended to supplement that relationship and to provide an additional resource to help students navigate the process of preparing for life after high school. Access is staffed with by a licensed teacher who serves as the coordinator and community volunteers who are trained to provide personalized and specific help to students. The volunteers are passionate about the program and take time to invest in the lives of the students. Said volunteer Becky Briggs, "It's hard to pin down a favorite part of the program. I love when I've been able to work with a student starting in tenth grade and have been able to work with them through his/her graduation. It is incredible to see the transformation from being an awkward sophomore to a college student. When students come back to see us and tell us their successes is also an incredible experience. I also am happy when students have problems in their lives after they graduate and contact a volunteer that they worked with in Access. It is very satisfying and humbling to think that they trusted us enough to tell us when they've stumbled and need help to set them back on a path."

Edina Give and Go has strong ties to the Access program. Our executive director, Abby Lugo, is the program coordinator and several of our board members are active Access volunteers. In support of the program, Edina Give and Go provides funding so that students in need can take tests like the ACT, SAT, and TOEFL exams. Read more [here](#).

To stay engaged follow us





Edina Give and Go is giving, growing, and going forward with your support.



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## In-Kind Donation, Now Collecting: Gym Shoes

### Quarterly In Kind Donation Drive

Edina Give and Go is collecting new or gently used calculators for 3rd - 12th graders. If your child no longer needs his or hers, please consider passing it along to a student in need



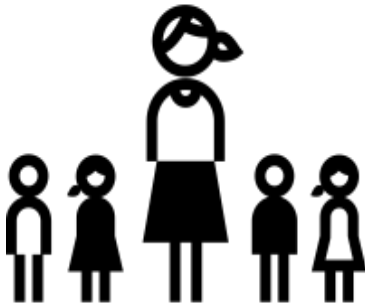
There are 3 options for drop-off of school supplies:

- In the lobby of the Edina Community Center.
- In our office (room 323 of the Edina Community Center) **New Location!**
- 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 a calculator!**

If you would like your donation to be tax-deductible, click here to print off a in-kind donation form to be dropped off with your calculator.

## New Year, New Opportunities

Happy New Year! Around this time of year many of us set resolutions and goals for the next 12 months. As January 1st approached, I took some time to think about what I wanted my top values to be in 2017 rather than making resolutions.



I have chosen to value investing in our children because they will ultimately become our future. I am considering ways I can become more engaged with our students to help empower them to create a future for all of us that is kind, optimistic, and fruitful.

While I've committed to spending more time with our students in order to help them to achieve these goals, I also want to say thanks to each and every one of you. Every time you donate or create awareness for Edina Give and Go, you show our students that you value them by providing opportunities like taking gymnastics, owning their own yearbook, or taking driver's education. You have helped us unlock opportunities for our students, one child at a time. Thank you!

As we continue to work toward our resolutions or achieve our values let us be reminded of the simple things we can do in our communities to make a difference. I wish you and your families all the best in 2017.

*Abby Lugo*

Executive Director

## Unlocking opportunities, one student at a time

Even in Edina, some kids need a little extra support

Unlock an opportunity today by [clicking here](#)

Over 400 students served this year



Partnering with schools to identify individual needs

