



O'FALLON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 203



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December 7, 2018

We are reaching out to our O'Fallon Community Partners to inform you of an existing, and recently expanded, program at OTHS, *Family for Families*. In the past, *Family for Families* has focused on providing clothing, eyeglasses, mattresses, winter coats, school supplies, or basic hygiene needs. The annual highlight of the *Family for Families* fund is the December shopping trip for students in critical need of clothes, coats, and shoes. This has been a time celebrated by both the donors and students as the holiday season was made brighter for all. Due to an increasing need, the *Family for Families* has been expanded to include a *Feed the Future* Program.

Food Insecurity, as defined by the USDA, is a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food insecurity is an ever-increasing challenge at OTHS when focusing on the comprehensive needs of a student.

At this time, it is estimated almost 1 in 4 OTHS students are living under the condition of food insecurity. This is a virtually unknown fact in the O'Fallon community and is incomprehensible to many. However, the unfortunate reality is OTHS has students that will not have a meal, or a solid nutritional source, from Friday lunch to their Monday breakfast.

OTHS wants to prepare every student to reach his/her potential and inadequate nutrition is currently a challenge to almost 25% of OTHS students. Our mission is to educate every student with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully navigate life post high school, but hunger is a current barrier to many. Students dreams are varied; some include college while others include a career. Regardless of the life path one desires, we want to make sure we prepare all students to achieve his or her dream. Therefore, OTHS is launching the *Feed the Future* program for our students.

The vision of the program is to discreetly provide students in need with a sack of food to take home on Friday afternoons containing enough nourishment to last throughout the weekend. Eventually, the program may be expanded to include school days, but the success and resources for the program must be evaluated after the initial roll out to determine if that is a possibility. There is already tremendous enthusiasm for this program and committed teachers, students, social workers, and administrators have developed a system to launch the program second semester, but to make this a reality, we are in need of community support.

We are seeking assistance in the form of financial and/or food donations from interested parties. If you are interested in donating to the *Family for Families* Fund, please mail checks (made out to *Family for Families*) to the OTHS Smiley Campus, Attention of Dr. Martha Weld. Alternatively, a flyer of the food items we are seeking is attached for your reference. We are limiting our inventory to the displayed items to track and inventory their usage and student preference. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Dr. Martha Weld weldm@oths.us or the OTHS Social Workers socialworkers@oths.us for additional information.

We thank you for your commitment in helping every student reach his or her potential,

Sincerely,

Martha Weld, PhD
Assistant Superintendent

DROP OFF ALL ITEMS AT OTHS SMILEY, 600 SOUTH SMILEY, O'FALLON

