



# NEWS

The purpose of Be East is to transform East's culture and climate by teaching expected behaviors, celebrating positive attitudes and actions, and supporting students in obtaining skills for success.

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## Scarlet Market

Visit the Scarlet Market for great East merchandise. Most merchandise can be purchased with Be East Cards or Cash. Starting second semester, many items will only be available for purchase with Be East Cards. Consider making your cash purchases soon.

## Movement 515

The first School v School SLAM was October 26 and the team scored a 117 out of 120 total points to bring the Golden Boom Box back to East! Shout out to the following poets who took the stage:

Jazzy Johnson  
Arrionna Mitchell  
Billie Davis, Tiembra Dantzer  
Andrea Perez (group piece)  
Tiera McKnight

The next performance will be the Share the Mic on Nov. 10th at the Temple for Performing Arts. The theme is "I Too, Am America," and all proceeds from tickets purchased will benefit Iowa Justice for Neighbors.



## Be East Staff Book Study

By Joe Spiess, Ph.D.—School Improvement Leader

East High School staff are committed to the motto of "Every Student, Every Chance, Every Day." One of the topics we have identified as an area of growth is cultural proficiency, which is defined as the ability to effectively interact with others who are different than yourself (Nuri-Robins, Lindsey, Lindsey, & Terrell, 2011). The Be East committee reviewed over a dozen titles for a book study that would support staff to grow and develop their own levels of cultural proficiency. The book that was selected for the book study was "For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood ...and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education" by Dr. Christopher Emdin. A description of the book is below:

*Drawing on his own experience of feeling undervalued and invisible in classrooms as a young man of color and merging his experiences with more than a decade of teaching and researching in urban America, award-winning educator Christopher Emdin offers a new lens on an approach to teaching and learning in urban schools. For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too is the much-needed antidote to traditional top-down pedagogy and promises to radically reframe the landscape of urban education for the better. Putting forth his theory of Reality Pedagogy, Emdin provides practical tools to unleash the brilliance and eagerness of youth and educators alike. Merging real stories with theory, research, and practice, Emdin demonstrates how by implementing the "Seven C's" of reality pedagogy in their own classrooms, urban youth of color benefit from truly transformative education.*

45 East staff members have voluntarily chosen to participate in this book study. Staff are meeting once a month to discuss assigned readings and how they relate to both their educational practices and their own lives. There is also a peer observation component, where staff will be observing each other during the implementation of a new practice geared towards higher levels of cultural proficiency and giving each other feedback. The book study will last throughout the school year, and opinions after the first group meetings were very positive.

