



The Guardian

June 2020

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

Meet the AEF Board

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Chairperson

Cathy Droste
Vice Chairperson

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Secretary

Barbara Jacks

Martha Morse

Marisa Murray

Janis Northway

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Bricks, Blocks, & Benches

Bricks, blocks, and benches are available for purchase and will be placed at Alton High School. Proceeds from the sales are combined with the Guardians of Education funds. Click on the Brick Campaign tab at altoned.org for more information.



Alton Educational Foundation

Mission of Alton Education Foundation

The Alton Educational Foundation (AEF) was founded in 2001 as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization to raise funds for innovative projects that provide enhanced educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement throughout the Alton School District.

The AEF Board is currently comprised of twelve local advocates for public education, including business owners, parents, teachers, retired educators, and district representatives. Over the past eighteen years, volunteers have launched numerous fundraising efforts, including Redbird Raffles and memorial brick sales.

In 2014, the AEF Board of Directors developed The Guardians of Education membership program in the hopes of raising more funds and retaining those funds for annual grants. Local Guardians

of Education include businesses and individuals who donate annually. Many of the individuals are past and present employees from the Alton School District. The Guardians of Education program has raised over \$23,000 annually for the past four years through the generosity of businesses and individuals who donate annually. These funds are distributed back as grants to educators in the Alton District. Since the inception of AEF, over \$200,000 in grants have been awarded!

This past October, grants were submitted and reviewed with over \$3800 awarded in December. Another grant opportunity was provided to teachers this spring. Grants were due in April and the board will review and award funding for the grants so they can be implemented in the beginning of the next school year. Next school year, the grant cycle will begin in the spring with funding and implementation for the following school year.

iPad Grant

October 10, 2019

Dear AEF Board Members,

I am writing with sincere thanks for the grant I received last year to purchase iPads. As a Title reading teacher, I use programs daily to help children work on letter recognition and formation and word and sound recognition. In addition to targeting these skills, I have found many apps to enhance these skills, such as programs that teach reading basics and several with books to read or that can be read to the students.

The iPads make using these programs so much easier. First, there are no cords to plug in and get tangled up. The only cord used now is the one to plug in headphones. Without cords, the students can move about the classroom comfortably. Second, the iPads are easy for the student to use. They can trace letters and move boxes around on the screen easily. Their hands are too small and they are not coordinated enough to use the mouse with the Chromebook. And finally, the iPads require no logins, so the students can get on task quickly without having to wait for someone to log them in.

My short amount of time with student groups is used efficiently.

I am excited to explore more apps to use in my reading instruction. I can't thank you enough and appreciate all you are doing to help our students meet their full potential.

Sincerely,

Kristin Bemis

Title I Reading Teacher, Lovejoy Elementary



District Awards

Each year, Alton teachers and staff are recognized for excellence by their peers and by prestigious organizations of educators and business leaders.

The AEF salutes the 2019 & 2020 SY recipients!

Boys and Girls Club of Alton "2020 Honoree Award"

Mark Cappel

Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award

Greg Adams

Illinois Principal Association "Principal of the Year"

John Ducey

Madison County Urban League "Community Service Excellence Award"

Kristie Baumgartner

American String Teachers Association "2019-20 Outstanding School Teacher Award"

Laura Plummer

Illinois Association of School Boards "Master School Board Member"

Ed Gray

ISBE - Those Who Excel Award Recipients:

Chelsea Anderson

Howard Colburn

Barbara Jacks

Carrie Schildroth

Fran Shirrell

YWCA Women of Distinction Award Recipients:

Wendy Adams

Rosetta Brown

Angela Gray

Kendra Stiff

Orville & Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship Fund Winners Announced

Orville and Kathleen met while teaching at Kampsville High School in Calhoun County and married in 1934. They lived in Hartford, IL most of their married lives.

Orville Brunjes - Born April 16, 1906 - Died August 7, 1969

Orville worked in the Wood River-Hartford Elementary School District as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. He actively supported youth programs and in 1959 was awarded the Silver Beaver Award (the highest award a council can give) by the local Boy Scout Council.

Kathleen Brunjes - Born March 29, 1903 - Died July 29, 1991

Kathy Gourley Brunjes received her college education by attending part-time in summer school, night school, and through correspondence courses. She was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University at Normal in 1933, her MA in Education from Washington University in 1947, and later received certification as a State Specialist in Counseling and Guidance from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Tenacity was one of her notable qualities.

Kathleen began teaching immediately after high school at Spring Bay High School in Woodford County, Illinois. She taught at Kampsville High School, was a counselor and served as registrar at East Alton-Wood River High School, and was the first counselor ever at Wood River High. She taught a year at Monticello College in Godfrey and then from 1945 to 1972 she served at East Junior High on Washington Ave. in Alton. Her experiences included math teacher, coach of boys

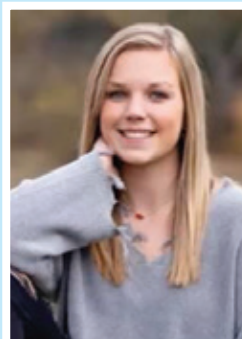
and girls basketball, tennis coach, director of the school orchestra, administrative programs, and her greatest joy- counseling.

Orville and Kathleen Brunjes loved the people and the communities in which they lived and worked. Kathleen established this scholarship and began awarding them herself in 1987. She made sure funds were provided from her estate to continue their legacy of giving to Alton and Wood River students. Over \$110,000 has been granted to over sixty students since 1987. The Alton Educational Foundation began overseeing the disbursement of scholarship funds in 2018.

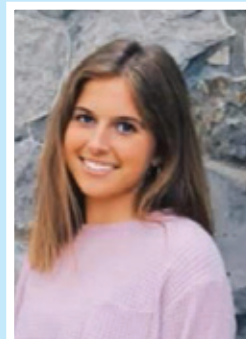
This year's Brunjes Memorial Scholarship winners are **Chloe Bazzell** and **Abigail Scyoc**.

Abigail plans to attend Missouri State University.

Chloe has plans to attend Western Kentucky University.



Chloe Bazzell



Abigail Scyoc

Congratulations!

Alton High School 2020 Illinois State Scholars

Bakshi, Muskan	Dosso, Samantha	Lowe, Nicole	Rathgeb, Rachel
Barnard, Laney	Dugan, Wesley	Marshall, Sydney	Rogers, Kobe
Bazzell, Chloe	Godi, Jason	Marshall, William	Saenz, Madelyn
Beers, Alexander	Hallgren, Carson	McKeever, Mary	Schrimpf, Braden
Bemis, Jaina	Hance, Tyler	McNamee, Liam	Scyoc, Abigail
Betz, Ashlyn	Johnson, Katherine	Miller, Anna	Shansey, Evan
Billingsley, Jaedyn	Jones, Abraham	Napp, Grace	Springman, Mae
Boyer, Elizabeth	Jones, Samuel	Neace, Audrey	Weiner, Lauren
Clancy, Noah	Laaker, Wesley	Ni, Amy	Wind, Hope
Cooke, Aaron	Laleman, Alexander	Pollard, Kaylee	

Original Three Scholarship

Koran Mason El

Elijah P Lovejoy Memorial Scholarship

Anzaria Simon

Lovejoy Memorial Academic Achievement Awards

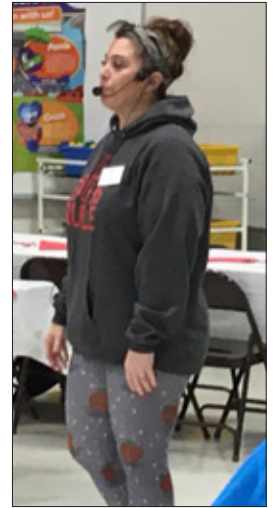
Alonzo Logan
Micah Logan
Mary McKeever

Anna Miler
Addisyn Neuhaus
Olga Chavez Reyes

Sixth Annual Guardians of Education Breakfast

The Alton Educational Foundation held its Sixth Annual Guardians of Education Breakfast on February 26th at Eunice Smith Elementary School. At the annual breakfast, recent grant recipients presented their projects to an audience of donors who have donated funds to the organization. This year's presenters and their projects were:

**Eunice Smith
Elementary
Teacher,
Amy Evans-
"AerobicBeats"**



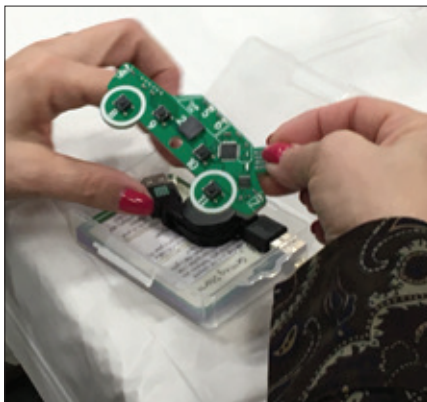
**Alton High School Teacher, Lexa Browning and
student, Kaylee Pollard, along with Hayner Genealogy
and Local History Librarian, Renee Johnson- "Alton
ABCs"**



**Alton Middle School Teacher, Kayla Logan- "Life,
Social, and Math Skills for Students with Autism"**



**Alton Middle School Teacher,
Rob Miller- "Programming a
Brighter Future"**



**Eunice Smith Elementary School Teachers, Gina Frye
and Teresa Arview - "It's a Small World"**



The Sewing Club *Angel Weber*

April 23, 2020

Dear AEF Members,

I wish to thank you for your generous donations and the grant that you gave to the SEWING CLUB this year.

This is our second year. We were very busy in December – February fulfilling a list for families.

Due to the school closure I was not able to complete my purchases for the rest of our supplies. It is my intention that as soon as possible when school resumes in the fall to complete that list.

We were able to make a few projects for those in need who were suffering from long-term illnesses.

The purpose of the SEWING CLUB is for students to learn to sew for others and themselves. This year we had 20 members but 12 of those never missed an opportunity to invest their time. The grant will allow me to purchase new machines so 15 students will be able to sew at the same



time instead of eight at a time. All of the members are not present in the photos. All the projects are not in the photos.

Many hours are spent with students sitting patiently and thoughtfully at a machine or needle and thread hand sewing to create beautiful inspirational useful personal items for those in need. Each item is crafted with care and attention to details with words of hope our Biblical phrase stitched onto the item.

Those 12 dedicated students who unselfishly gave of their time, compassion

and hope with others less fortunate are little shining lights for people who are experiencing a moment of darkness. I have attached pictures below of some of the personal gifts sewn and delivered to family members. They made over 35 gifts right before school closed.

After the school closures I became aware that there was a need for scrub caps for nurses and volunteers were needed so I answered that call. Using some of the fabric and notions I had purchased earlier for the sewing club I was able to make ten caps. It is projects such as this that fulfills part of the purpose and mission of the sewing club. Therefore I am grateful that the grant once again came to the aid of others.

Thank you

Angel Weber
AMS/ART TEACHER
SEWING CLUB



Starting with the Fall of 2019 our Athletic Program at Alton High School enjoyed many successes. The Boys and Girls Golf teams both had rewarding seasons with the Boys having a Sectional qualifier in Clayton Pilger, and Natalie Messenger also qualifying for the IHSA Sectional after winning the Mascoutah Regional. Girls Tennis had a very competitive year finishing 7-9 overall and 2-4 in the Southwestern Conference and qualified a few players for the IHSA Sectional. The Girls Volleyball program struggled this year with youth and inexperience and will return everyone besides two seniors. The Cross Country program featured a strong season and was led by Sectional qualifier Cassius Havis who completed one of the outstanding careers ever witnessed in the Redbird Cross Country program. Boys Soccer team played for an IHSA 3A Regional Championship for the first time in over 10 years after defeating Quincy in the Semis 2-1. Finally the Football team ended the year at 3-6 and suffered a couple of close defeats late in the year to break their two year run by making the IHSA state playoffs. Congratulations to all of our Fall Athletes and their coaches.

The Winter Season featured many ups and downs by our winter teams, but offered hope for success going forward. The Boys

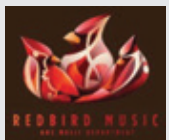
Bowling Team was very young and was led by Junior Danny Laslie who had a very nice year, which included a 300 series at one point during the year. Danny qualified for the IHSA Sectional and the squad will only be losing 2 seniors so big things will be expected for next year. The Girls Bowling Team suffered from low numbers all year, but competed and improved all throughout the season. The Cheerleaders had a very strong competitive season and just missed qualifying for the IHSA State Finals by 1 point in scoring at that Sectional level. The Cheer squad did finish in 3rd Place at State in the ICCA Coed division. The Dance Team had a nice showing at the IHSA Sectional level. The Wrestling team had a very solid season finishing the year at 13-9 and qualifying 4 wrestlers for the IHSA Sectional. Junior Damien Jones qualified for the state finals from this group going 2-2 in Champaign just missing a medal. The Girls Basketball squad suffered through a tough year under first year Head Coach Deserea Howard, but will return the entire squad minus one Senior. Bigger and better things will be expected going forward. The Boys Basketball team also had a new Coach in Dana Morgan and competed very well throughout the year winning 13 games and taking 3rd Place in the Alton Tip-off Tournament as well as 4th Place in the Centralia Holiday Tournament.

The Girls and Boys Swimmers also did well. The highlight of the swim season was Senior Noah Clancy having another super post season for the Redbird Swim team as Noah qualified out of the Sectional in two events for the IHSA State Boys Swimming Tournament. Noah eventually took 4th place overall in the 100 yd backstroke, which resulted in him medaling for the 3rd year in a row at State. The Lady Redbird Girls Swim team competed in the IHSA Girls Sectional Swim meet in Springfield in October. Medals were earned in three events.

The Spring season unfortunately never took place as the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic canceled all spring sports and classes at Alton High School. All of our Spring sports had conducted tryouts and begun pre-season practices, but were shut down starting on March 17th. Our hearts go out to the numerous Seniors who never had an opportunity to compete this spring representing Redbird Nation. To recognize the Seniors the Southwestern Conference awarded all Senior Spring athletes All-Conference recognition to honor them for the sacrifices they endured.

Check out altonathletics.org for any updates, schedules and notifications of Alton High School Athletics.

Music News



In spite of ending our concert season abruptly before the spring musical and our final concerts, we have had a really great year at Alton H.S.

We welcomed Ms. Alexis Leggs this year as our new AHS choral director. She has done an outstanding job with our students and had 3 outstanding concerts this year.

The Marching 100 had a good season this past fall. At the Mt. Zion, IL Marching Music Games they won 1st place Indoor Percussion Contest, Crowd favorite, Outstanding percussion in their field show, and 2nd place overall in class AAAA. At the Washington, MO Marching Festival they won Outstanding Visual in Prelims and in Finals they placed 8th.

Alton H.S. had 7 students selected to the attend the ILMEA All-State Festival at the end of January:

Ben Duke, viola, 11th grade,

ILMEA All-State Honors Orchestra

Ethan Plate, bass, 11th grade,

ILMEA All-State Orchestra

Fletcher Leonard, percussion, 11th grade

ILMEA All-State Honors Orchestra,
Ranked #1 percussion in the state of Illinois! (2nd year ILMEA All-State)

John Durrwachter, bass I, 12th grade,

ILMEA All-State Chorus

Ryleigh Baldwin, alto II, 11th grade,

ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus

Micah Logan, bass II, 12th grade,

ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus
(2nd year ILMEA All-State)

Audrey Neace, alto I, 12th grade,

ILMEA All-State Honors Chorus
(3rd year ILMEA All-State)

I received the Illinois American String Teacher Assoc. 2020 Outstanding School Teacher Award. I am very honored and humbled to receive this recognition from my orchestra director peers in the state of Illinois.

And just last week Alton High School was recently recognized with the Support Music Merit Award from the NAMM Foundation's "Best Communities for Music Education." 148 schools nationwide received this award which recognizes schools that work hard to make sure ALL of our students receive a well rounded music education as well as ensure all students have an opportunity to learn and grow with music. We greatly appreciate the support from our administration, parents, ABOB, and the community who value music education and see its importance as music and all of the arts continue to nurture and connect us all.

On a sad note we are saying good bye to Mrs. Alyssa Overmann at the end of this school year. She was hired as the head band director at Clayton H.S. She turned the AHS band program around, doubling the size of the Marching 100 within a year of taking over as the head band director. We wish her the best.

by Laura Plummer

HWRT Oil Company Reaches \$30,000 in Giving to AEF!

According to the HWRT Oil Company website, "Emil W. Schrimpf started in the petroleum business in 1932 with one 250 gallon tank truck and one service station under the name Piasa Motor Fuels." Now in its fifth generation Legacy of the Schrimpf Family, the company has continued to expand over the years. In 1976, the Hartford Wood River Terminal was purchased and in May of 2004, the HWRT Oil Company, LLC (HWRT) was formed. Three additional terminals were purchased, thus expanding the company to seven states and a larger presence in the Midwest.

As the HWRT Oil Company's footprint in the Midwest expanded, so did its Legacy of Giving. The saying "To



Whom Much is Given, Much Will Be Required (Luke 12:48)" is evidenced in the company's charitable giving to the community it serves. In order to expand it's giving footprint to match its company footprint, the Piasa

Charitable Foundation was formed in 2015.

In 2014 The Alton Educational Foundation (AEF) began the Guardians of Education program. Since the beginning of this program, the HWRT Oil Company has donated \$30,000 to benefit the teachers in the Alton School District. The AEF is grateful for HWRT's good fortune and, willingness and ability to continue giving on a yearly basis.

THANK YOU, HWRT OIL COMPANY!

Thank you to our Guardians of Education!

2019-2020 Guardians of Education

Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

CNB Bank & Trust
Freer Auto Body
Piasa Charitable Foundation/
HWRT
Joseph & Catherine Johnson
Family Foundation
Karen Wilson State Farm
Phillips 66
Charles & Joan Sheppard

Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

Kristie Baumgartner
Catherine Droste
Kenny & Cindy Inman
Joyce Kniepkamp
Smith, Mendenhall, Selby &
Cole
Phil & Teri Trapani
Woodman Collision Center

Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

Angela L. McDowell
Counseling
Karen Botterbush
Melody Favazza

David & Paula Fritz
Edmond Gray
CB & Ellen Jackson
Todd & Laura Plummer
Theresa & Reuben Willis

High Honor Roll (\$50-\$249)

Wendy Adams
Anonymous
Julie & Ethan Basler
Steve & Barb Batchelor
Michael & Barb Beaber
Norma Bedwell
Larry & Barb Bellm
Michael Bellm
Ryan & Kristin Bemis
Jody Bosomworth
Margie Bryant
David & Martha Chiolero
Sonja Collins-Fordson
John Cunningham
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Denby
John Ducey
Friends of Monica Bristow
Julie Gallivan
Pat & Bryan Gorman
Timothy Grant
Jeffrey Harris
Rene Hart

Laura Hill
Tawnya Hooper
Nancy Ikard
David & Barb Jacks
Elaine Kane
Melissa King
Kevin Krausz
Angela Kuchnicki
Angela Laaker
Latasha LeFlore-Porter
Victoria Lehman
Amy Maberry
Ann McLaughlin
Lori McCaskey
Jody Meggos
Robert Miller
Vivian Monckton
Dale & Carol Neudecker
Laura O'dell
Charles & Susan Parr
Debra Penning
Brian & Kristen Saenz
Stacy Saffell
Mary Schell
Marcella Sedabres
Patrick & Laura Shansey
Denise & Matthew Stidd
Elyse Tillman
Marjorie Wheeler

Nita & Tom Whitten
Lynda Willings
Jan Wrischnik

Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)

Jordan Brannon
Trudi Douglas
Angela Garrett
Cami Giertz
Kelle Hanson
Sharolyn Hartman
Christine Lafikes
Karen & Robert Lowe
Jodi Lynn
Kelly Manns
Christina Petrea
Timothy Rister
Nancy Simpson
Cathy Stolze
Kara Twichell
Ruth & Roger Waggener
Danette Watt

Remote Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic



The Alton Educational Foundation Board would like to thank all teachers and support staff for their resiliency, dedication, and hard work during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All teachers were challenged to change instruction to remote methods from mid-March through the end of the school year.

An example of instruction for young students is this Earth Day unit in Janis Northway's first grade class from Gilson Brown Elementary. Students read books on recycling and ways to save our land, water, and air. They also made a creation from recycled items, picked up trash from their neighborhood, and made an Earth Day Poster. Some of their products are shown here.





Alton Educational Foundation
P.O. Box 514
Alton, IL 62002

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Organization
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St Louis MO
Permit 2828

Founded in 2001, the Alton Educational Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities, support academic excellence and encourage student achievement in the Alton School District.

We're on the Web!
Visit altoned.org



Alton Educational Foundation

Guardian of Education Registration Form

(Mail to AEF, P.O. Box 514, Alton, IL 62002 or register online at altoned.org and click on the Membership tab)

Name _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

I am paying by (check one)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card Amount \$ _____

Checks payable to Alton Educational Foundation

(A portion of the dues are tax deductible) Alton school district employees can also use a payroll deduction option. Corporate gift matching is another opportunity for donations as the AEF is a 501(c)(3) organization with a tax exempt ID.

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ DISCOVER Exp. date _____

Card # _____ 3-digit code _____

Signature: _____

You can be a Guardian – The Guardians of Education program offers a unique chance to aid the educational opportunities of Alton students. An annual membership is available to individuals as well as businesses.

Select membership level

☐ **HONOR ROLL** – \$5 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website)

☐ **HIGH HONOR ROLL** – \$50 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website)

☐ **SALUTATORIAN** – \$250 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, 4 tickets for district event(s) of choice)

☐ **VALEDICTORIAN** – \$500 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, 16 tickets for district event(s) of choice, name on engraved plaques in each school building)

☐ **EMERITUS** – \$1000 minimum (name in newsletter and AEF website, invitation to annual breakfast, a pass to all district events, name on engraved plaques in each school building, individual engraved plaque)

Name as you want it to appear on website/publications _____