



The Guardian

June 2022

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

Meet the AEF Board

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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 Donations tab at altoned.org for more information.



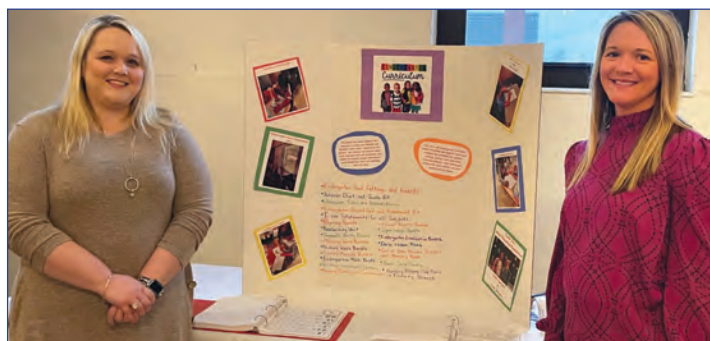
Alton Educational Foundation

Thank you to our Guardians of Education!

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Alton Educational Foundation was pleased to host its 6th Annual Guardians of Education Recognition/Appreciation Event on March 30, 2022. Unlike past years in which the event was held at an area school building, this year's event was held at The Post Commons. The event was held in an "open house" format to allow "guardians" an opportunity to partake in a light breakfast, view a sampling of recent grant funded projects, and talk personally with district staff who implemented the grants they were awarded.

The Guardians of Education (GOE) Program was developed and implemented in 2014 in the hopes of generating a reliable stream of revenue to help supplement the ever-changing educational needs and requirements in the Alton School District. Membership levels range from annual donation amounts of \$5 to \$1000 and up. Contributions are tax deductible. In the past two years, over \$19,000 in grants have been awarded. Over 300 individuals/businesses have contributed to the GOE Program over the past eight years. Currently there are over seventy individuals/businesses who contribute yearly. Over fifteen of the current donors have been giving on a yearly basis since the program began!

Teachers are given an opportunity to apply for grants on a yearly basis. The Alton Educational Foundation's mission is to raise funds for innovative projects that provide enhanced educational opportunities, support academic excellence, and encourage student achievement throughout the Alton School District. Any request must be aligned with this mission statement. The Alton Educational Foundation Board Members score the grants and then meet to discuss and determine eligibility for funding.



Projects/Presenters at this year's GOE event included:

- Keeping Our Kinders Engaged: Julie Osborn and Julia Spencer, Lovejoy Elementary
- Outdoor Classroom Experience: Jen Herring, East Elementary
- Digital Announcements: Lanea DeConcini/Jen Herring, East Elementary
- Convert a Bench: Meme Evans, West Elementary
- Helping Students Build Skills: Karla Barnhart/Edie Banks, North Elementary
- 3D Printing: Rob Miller, Alton Middle School

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 2021 & 2022 SY recipients!

IFACSTA Teacher of the Year
Regina Birch

ISBE - Those Who Excel Award Recipient:

Ashley Abell
Early Career Educator

Danielle Kamp
Educational Service Personnel

Marc Lane
Community Volunteer

Samantha Take & Keegan Bennett
Team

Illinois Association of School Boards "Master School Board Member"
David Fritz & Ed Gray

Emerson Electric Educator Award
Keegan Bennett

Riverbend Growth Association Leadership Award
Kristie Baumgartner
Superintendent

YWCA Women of Distinction Award
Latasha LeFlore-Porter

2021-2022 Guardians of Education

Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

Karen Wilson State Farm
Phillips 66
Piasa Charitable Foundation
(HWRT Oil Company)
Charles & Joan Sheppard
Steve and Laura Thompson

Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

Kristie & Steve Baumgartner
CNB Bank & Trust
Catherine & Mark Droste
Melody Favazza
Kenny & Cindy Inman
Paul & Jennifer Merioles
Phil & Teri Trapani

Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

1st Mid America Credit Union
David & Paula Fritz
Missy & Rick Gibson
Edmond & Cathy Gray
Charles & Ellen Jackson
Rance & Lisa Long
Brenda Walker McCain
Doug & Stephanie Mendenhall
Laura & Todd Plummer
Dr. Kenneth Spells
Theresa & Reuben Willis

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

Wendy Adams
Shirley Aszman
Julie & Ethan Basler
Michael Bellm
Larry & Barb Bellm
Bob & Gail Burjes
Sonja Collins-Fordson

Sandra Crawford
John & Carmen Cunningham
Paul & Dorothy Droste
John Ducey
Gary & Traci Dunn
Jennifer Frimere
Julie Gallivan
Fiona & John Griswold
Paige Hamilton
Rene Hart
Laura Hill
Tawnya Hooper
David & Barbara Jacks
Elaine Kane
Mirsad Kapetanovich
Melissa King
Victoria Lehman
Peter McFarlane
Ann & Miles McLaughlin
Vivian Monckton
Marisa & Tim Murray
Dale & Carol Neudecker
Linda Nevin
Charles & Susan Parr
Stacy Saffell

Mary Schell
Katie & Steve Slater
Julie Spurgeon
Denise Stidd
Amy Strobel
The Weiner Family
Bonnie & Mark Westcott
Marjorie Wheeler
Nita & Tom Whitten
Pamela Wickenhauser
Lynda Willings
Jan Wrischnik

Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)

Cami Giertz
Linda Lamb
Karen & Robert Lowe
Amy Maberry
Janis Northway
Christina Petrea

Orville & Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship Fund Winners Announced

The Orville and Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship was established by Kathleen Brunjes in 1987, when she began awarding scholarships to outstanding students in the communities in which she and Orville both lived and worked. Funds to continue her legacy of giving were provided from her estate, and the Alton Educational Foundation began overseeing the disbursement of scholarship funds in 2018. This year, we are pleased to recognize two academically talented and civic minded individuals as the 2022 Brunjes Memorial Scholarship recipients: Abbie Hasty and Taylor Freer.



Abbie Hasty

Abbie Hasty is the daughter of Jeanna and Michael Hasty of Alton, Illinois. During her time at Alton High School (AHS) Abbie distinguished herself through service to the school as the first-stand cellist of the AHS Orchestra; membership in Mu Alpha Theta Math and Tri-M Music Honor Societies; and as the President of the AHS National Honor Society.

This summer, Abbie was also named as the 2021-22 Alton-Godfrey Rotary Student of the Year.

In addition to her many school activities, Abbie has also been active as one of fourteen members of the American Battlefield Trust Youth Leadership Team. During her tenure with this organization, Abbie has

developed a project to preserve and educate the public about the Alton Prison. She has traveled to Washington, D.C. to present her project to the donors to the American Battlefield Trust and to meet with members of Congress, including Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. Mike Bost to garner support for the American Battlefield Protection Program.

This fall, Abbie will be attending the University of Illinois at Springfield to study for her degree in Political Science. Her career plans include attending law school in pursuit of her ultimate goal of becoming a judge. Before she departs for college in August, Abbie will spend part of her summer volunteering at a summer camp for children in foster care, something she has done since her freshman year of high school.



Taylor Freer

Taylor Freer is the daughter of Tim and Carrie Freer of Alton, Illinois. In her four years at AHS, she has demonstrated leadership in and out of the classroom through academic excellence, athletic achievement, and community service. Taylor was a member of the AHS National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor

Society. In 2021, she served as a Junior Marshall at the AHS graduation ceremony in recognition of her academic achievement. Taylor is also a two-

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Orville & Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship Fund

Winners Announced *cont from page 2*

sport varsity athlete, playing varsity volleyball for three years and varsity soccer for four, as well as serving as team captain for both teams during her senior year. When not on the court or field, Taylor could be found in the stands, serving as a leader of the Redbird Nest, the AHS student spirit organization.

Outside of school, Taylor, along with her younger sister Lily, founded Christmas in July, a nonprofit organization that raises money and collects items that are distributed to under-served families at Christmas through thirteen local charitable agencies. Since its founding in 2009, more than 400,000 in cash donations have been raised to assist local families in need. In 2009, Taylor and her sister also established "Cookies and Cocoa," an annual December event in which the public is invited to drop in and

enjoy homemade refreshments while making a donation to help under-served families. Taylor also actively supports the local Salvation Army's bellringer campaign and served as a co-chair for last year's Tree of Lights Campaign.

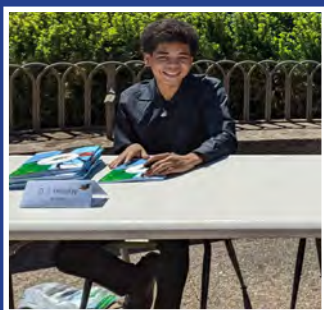
Taylor's ultimate career goal is to serve her community through the practice of medicine. In preparation for her work as a doctor, she has accumulated as much experience in the medical field as possible, shadowing various medical professionals, participating in the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, and working as a lab technician at the Washington University School of Medicine. This fall, Taylor will be attending Baylor University where she intends to major in Biology on a pre-med track.

Color Me Alton

Lexa Browning-Neeham and her Alton High Graphic Communications students have once again teamed up with Renee' Johnson of the Hayner Genealogy and Local History Library to produce a book that highlights the Alton community. Their first successful collaboration in 2019 resulted in a picture book titled Alton ABC. This year, the team has published a coloring book suitable for Pre-K students through adults titled Color Me Alton. The coloring book highlights community activities and events during each of the four seasons. In addition, each pair of pages has one image suitable for a younger child and one suitable for an older child or adult to color simultaneously. The book was released on May 8 at a signing held at the Hayner Library, and it is currently available for purchase at

the library and Alton Visitor's Center. Copies of the book have been donated to fifth-grade students in the Alton School District.

Librarian Renee Johnson met with Ms. Browning-Needham and her students in October to determine the theme of the book and select activities and events to be included in its pages. From there, students selected pages to illustrate, and regular team meetings were held to track progress, critique illustrations, and add and delete pages. Graphic communications students were involved in every step of the process from initial design to production to distribution, providing them with valuable work experience resulting in becoming published illustrators.





AWARDS

Alton High School 2021 - 2022 Illinois State Scholars

Barham, Emma	Fader, Naomi	Kerkemeyer, Monica	Ontis, Paige	Sumpter, Tate
Bergin, McKenna	Fischbeck, Markus	Kiel, Ashley	Redman, Amelia	Utgaard, Charles
Buel, Willow	Frankford, Jeffrey	Kiger, Emma	Rulo, Lucas	Wallace, Taryn
Burnett, Karisma	Freer, Taylor	Kumagai, Sophia	Scheffel, Savannah	Williams, Jamaira
Das, Jonathan	Gottlob, Sloane	Linke, Mason	Schrimpf, Victoria	
Davitz, Brian	Hall, Vann	Mathus, Connor	Schrumpf, Allie	
Dugan, Lucy	Hasty, Abigail	Metz, Paxton	Seehausen,	
Enos, Emily	Haynes, Cooper	Murphy, Trenton	Brenden	
Evola, Audrey	Hill, Elias	Niemeyer, Ashley	Steele, Spencer	

Original Three Scholarship

Sophia Kumagai

Elijah P Lovejoy Memorial Scholarship

Kamren Mason-El

Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial Achievement Award

Julian Caffey
Olivia Collins

Noah Hardin
Isis Rounds

Alton High School 2022 Silver Medallion Students

Roger Barfield III	Naomi Fader	Emma Kiger	Savannah Scheffel
Emma Barham	Claire Fennwald	Sophia Kumagai	Victoria Schrimpf
McKenna Bergin	Jeffrey Frankford	Mason Linke	Allie Schrumpf
Karisma Burnett	Taylor Freer	Kamren Mason-El	Katelyn Shaw
Haylie Butler	Sloane Gottlob	Connor Mathus	Spencer Steele
Riley Clancy	Vann Hall	Trenton Murphy	Tate Sumpter
Mariah Cruthis	Abigail Hasty	Ashley Niemeyer	Charles Utgaard
Jonathan Das	Cooper Haynes	Paige Ontis	Taryn Wallace
Lucy Dugan	Elias Hill	Rosalind Owen	Jamaira Williams
Ashley Durham	Anna Kane	Sophia Paschal	
Emily Enos	Monica Kerkemeyer	Amelia Redman	
Audrey Evola	Ashley Kiel	Lucas Rulo	

Athletic Wrap-up 2021-2022

Starting with the Fall of 2021 our Athletic Programs at Alton High School enjoyed many successes along the way and we were very glad we were able to offer our normal athletic programs despite still dealing with COVID pandemic off and on all school year. We were very happy to see our Redbird student-athletes competing in the various sports in their normal seasons and look for bigger and better things next school year.

In the fall two Redbird Boys Golfers, Sam Ottwell and Alex Siatos both qualified for the IHSA Sectional after Sam played extremely well in the two Southwestern Conference Tournaments to garner 1st Team All-Conference honors. Freshmen Girls Golfer, Addison Kenney qualified for the IHSA Girls Golf Sectional after shooting an 82 in the Regional. Addison followed that up with an 88 in the Sectional and also took 2nd Team All-Conference honors. Redbird Lady Tennis squad finished in 5th place in the conference with a 6-10 record overall led by 2nd Team All-Conference Singles player Lydia Taul. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team had a very competitive season under the direction of a former Redbird Head Volleyball Coach in Redbird Nation in Dan Carter, who returned to lead the Redbirds. The Redbird Boys Cross Country team had their best season in years winning their own Alton Invite, taking 2nd Place at the BWHS Invite, 1st Place at the Kahok Invite, and having 3 runners finish in the top twenty at the SWC Conference race. The Boys Soccer team and Redbird Football team had a lot of individual highlights and will return numerous players to shoot for more team success in the 22-23 school year. The Girls Swim team competed in the Edwardsville Sectional

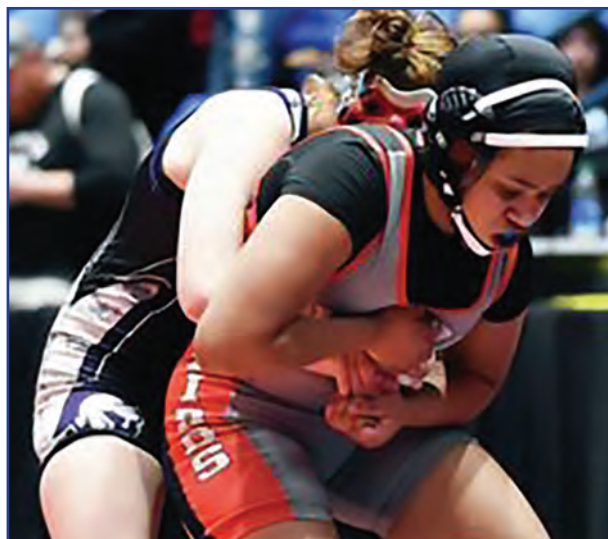
Swim and Dive meet, but did not have any state qualifiers this past year.

The Winter season brought the Girls Basketball team to the forefront and they reached levels that had not been seen in over 30 years. The 20 wins by the Girls Basketball team were the most wins in a single season at AHS since 1985. Along the way the Girls won their own Tournament in November, took 2nd Place at the Mascoutah Holiday Tournament, and took 4th place in the Highland Tournament as well as a 2nd Place finish in the SWC. Girls Wrestling was a new IHSA sport this winter and Alton's own **Antonia Phillips** became the Redbird's first State Champion in the sport of wrestling. Antonia won the state title at the 140 lb. weight class and will return next season to defend her title. The AHS Dance team had the opportunity to host the Southwestern Conference Dance Championships at AHS. The Boys Swim team competed in the Edwardsville Sectional Swim and Dive meet, but did not have any state qualifiers this past year. The Redbird Cheer team had scores in their COED competitive routines at the Conference Meet and at the IHSA Sectional that had never been reached before. In Bowling the Girls had a Sectional qualifier in Greco Taylor and on the Boys side they had two Sectional qualifiers in Eric Spond and Gavin Goewey. The Boys Basketball team competed all winter despite a lack of size and experience.

With the Spring season Redbird athletics had to deal with a very wet spring that caused multiple changes in the various schedules. Boys Tennis had a solid season finishing with a 7-5 record overall made up of a team of sophomores and juniors so next year looks to be very promising for Redbird

Boys Tennis. Girls Track had a student-athlete in Renee Raglin who qualified for the 3A IHSA State Championships in the 100m sprints and set an AHS Girls Track record in the event at the State Prelims. On the Boys side of track Junior Simon McClaine qualified for state in the 300m Hurdles in his first year participating in the event. The Boys Volleyball had their best season ever and set the all-time wins record in a season with 8 wins on the year and was supported by a JV squad that won 17 matches this spring. The future looks bright for Redbird Boys Volleyball. Boys Baseball and Softball had a lot of individual hi-lights in their two sports and played all season long with very young squads. Lady Redbird Girls Soccer had an outstanding season finishing up with a 17-5 record overall and 7-3 in the Southwestern Conference, which was good enough for 2nd place this spring.

Check out altonathletics.org for any updates, schedules and notifications of Alton High School Athletics. We look forward to seeing all of our Redbirds perform in their athletic endeavors for the 2022-2023 school year.



Eight-Year Project Completed at East Elementary!



Alton School District Educator, Jen Herring is passionate about the school she works at, the staff she works with, and most importantly, the students at the school. Jen goes above and beyond the ordinary and seeks funding for projects that are innovative and beneficial in improving outcomes for students. Eight years ago, Jen began a such a project at East Elementary. In her Outdoor Classroom grant proposal, she indicated the following: "Outdoor education and play support emotional, behavioral, and intellectual development. Studies have shown that students who learn outdoors develop: a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline, and initiative. Allowing for our students to have an area to learn outdoors is something that is not only innovative, but beneficial, especially during the past and present COVID-19 Pandemic limitations."

The outdoor classroom experience includes three raised flower beds, a concrete pad, and picnic tables. The plants for the flower beds are started by students participating in the autism program classroom, using hydroponic towers that were donated. The students care for the gardens during the school year and during the summer school session.

On April 22, 2022, a Ribbon-Cutting Event was held at East Elementary to reveal the last phase of an Outdoor Classroom Project. The last phase was a covering of the outdoor classroom concrete pad area with a permanent overhang/pavilion. Project organizer Jen Herring, specifically thanked school staff who have helped with the project over the years: Sarah Jones, Lisa Embrey, Carla Maly, Monica O'Brien and her classroom team, Principal, Lanea DeConcini, and Assistant Principal, Natalie Gordon. Special guests recognized included: Mayor of Alton, David Goins; Regional Superintendent of Schools, Robert Werden; State Senator, Rachel Crowe; State Representative, Amy Elik; Board of Education Member, Dave Fritz; Superintendent of Schools, Kristie Baumgartner; Assistant Superintendent, Elaine Kane; Director of Finance, Mary Schell; and Maintenance Director, Dave McClintock.

Organizations and their representatives who contributed monies and grants to the project were recognized. This included Alton School District, Alton Educational Foundation, Action for Healthy Kids, Madison County Green Schools Program, and Illinois Education Association SCORE Grant. Cathy Droste and Ann McLaughlin from the Alton Educational Foundation received a "Thank You" banner that was presented during the ceremony.







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

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Organization
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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 donate online at altoned.org and click on the Guardians of Education 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 _____