



# The Guardian

June 2021

Newsletter of the Alton Educational Foundation

## Meet the AEF Board

Cathy Droste  
*Chairperson*

Chuck Parr  
*Vice Chairperson*

Marisa Murray  
*Treasurer*

Nita Whitten  
*Secretary*

Gary Dunn  
Barbara Jacks

Martha Morse

Janis Northway

Debra Penning

Phil Trapani

*District Representative*  
Elaine Kane

## 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](http://altoned.org) for more information.



Alton Educational Foundation

## "Guardians" Support Mission of Alton Educational 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 formation of the Alton Educational Foundation was the inspiration of **Joan Sheppard** who was serving on the Lewis and



Cark Community College Foundation Board and wanted to see a similar Foundation developed to support the Alton School District. Joan; Attorney, Bill Hoagland, who helped draft the AEF's bylaws; along with then ACUSD #11 Superintendent, Jim Baiter; and other community member volunteers; set into motion the beginning of the Foundation

that is in place today. Always an advocate of education, Joan also previously served as an elected member of the Alton School Board for eight years, serving one of those years as School Board President. Joan and her husband, Charles, continue to donate to the AEF at the Emeritus Level each year. The AEF appreciates their passion and dedication to education within the Alton Community!

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

In 2014, the AEF Board of Directors developed The Guardians of Education (GOE) 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. Karen Wilson of Karen Wilson State Farm, was the very first Guardian of Education member and continues to donate each year at the Emeritus Level. Many GOE are past and present employees from the Alton School District. This is the case with Karen as well. She served eight years as an educator and then administrator in the Alton District before she left in 2002 to begin her career with State Farm. The AEF thanks Karen for her on-going support of education and the AEF!

The Guardians of Education program has raised nearly \$23,000 or more annually for the past five years through the generosity of businesses and individuals who donate annually. During the 2020-2021 School year, over \$9000.00 in grants were funded.

## 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 2020-2021 SY recipients!

#### IFACSTA Teacher of the Year

Regina Birch

#### ISBE- Those Who Excel Award Recipients

Vivian Monckton  
*Community Volunteer*

#### Golden Apple Award Finalists

Zeb Holder  
Kate Page

#### Illinois Teacher of the Year

Kim Engleman  
*Top Award Recipient*  
Erin Forrester  
Cameron Reynolds-Youngman  
Kristen Saenz

#### Illinois Association of School Boards "Master School Board Member"

Rosetta Brown  
Vivian Monckton

#### 2018-2019 Tatler Top Honor Publication

Bridget Helck

#### Honorary Commanders Class of 2022

Dorothy Mosby

#### YWCA Women of Distinction Award Recipients

Leah Becoat  
Lanea DeConcini  
Carrie Schildroth  
Sandra West

## Homework, Organization, and Planning Skills (HOPS)

*Helping students gain self-control, organizational skills, homework skills, and meeting their sensory needs. Intervention set: Professionals' Manual and Parents' Workbook.*

By Karla Barnhart

The Alton Educational Foundation funded this grant for our school (North Elementary) to provide research-based interventions to students who struggle in the classroom setting and are making poor grades. The focus of this grant is to teach students about motivation, self-control, and organization as well as give them tools to help themselves in the classroom.

The pandemic has definitely affected the implementation of our grant. Our hope was to run SAIG (Social Academic Instructional Group) groups implementing the curriculum that the grant paid for, but with the way school was this year we weren't able to do any true SAIG groups since we couldn't create groups with students across classrooms. We tried to implement it in a whole-group setting once we returned to hybrid, but with the shortened day and classroom teachers having to pack all instruction in, there wasn't enough time in the day to add to an already full schedule.

Despite this, we were able to use at least parts of the HOPS program with a few individual students this year, which helped us learn the curriculum and implementation process. I was able to work with a 5th grader during 4th quarter bi-weekly using the HOPS intervention. She learned organizational skills by using a binder with separate folders, discussed self-management, and how to study for tests. We documented all missing assignments and by the end of the school year she had zero missing assignments (she

had multiple during the first part of the year), was writing down her homework daily, and brought her grades up to C's (had D's and F's the first 3 quarters). I'm sure being in-person consistently helped. The student expressed pleasure in the time we had together working through some of her executive functioning weaknesses and planning for 6th grade.

I also utilized the parent manual with multiple families by giving them copies of the workbook pages on setting up reward menus in the home setting and specific ideas for helping their kids stay organized and complete work when at home.

The goal for next year is to run SAIG groups using the curriculum for students who need help with organization, study skills, self-management, and work completion. These are all skills we assume students have learned and know how to do; however, students with executive functioning deficits may not, and need to be explicitly taught. I believe this program is going to benefit 4th/5th graders greatly, especially with moving into middle school. In middle school, students have different classes with different teachers and organization is key. We are hoping to lay some of the groundwork for these unorganized students to help better prepare them for middle school.

***Our team is hopeful to continue utilizing the HOPS intervention program as much as possible in the coming years!***



## Memorial Donations to Alton Educational Foundation Support Education

**When choosing an organization to honor deceased family and friends, consider honoring your loved one with a memorial donation to the Alton Educational Foundation.**

**Donations are used solely to fund teacher grants (unless otherwise specified). Since January of 2021, over \$1000.00 has been donated to AEF to honor the memories of loved ones.**

**May the memories of your loved ones be a blessing to you always.**



## Alton High School 2021 Illinois State Scholars

Baldwin, Ryleigh  
Barnard, Ian  
Brunaugh, Sydney  
Clark, Reiley  
Cochran, Morgan  
Cooper, Garrett  
Criveau, Lydia  
Favazza, Kieran

Flanigan, Darcie  
Gebelein, Hallie  
Gehrig, Olivia  
Gehrig, Thomas  
Halliday, Spencer  
Isringhausen, Brooke  
Jones, Jordan  
Jones, Rosaleigh

Kotzamanis, Eleni  
Krueger, Joel  
Leonard, Fletcher  
Mayden, August  
McClaine, Millie  
Ni, Maggie  
Parrett, Rowan  
Reid, Ryan

Shobe, Kayla  
Smith, Broderick  
Spangler, Olivia  
Stark, Karrie  
Thomas, Divine  
Wong, Adam  
Yinger, William

### Original Three Scholarship

DeAnna Wells (Marquette High School)

### Elijah P Lovejoy Memorial Scholarship

Ty'Ria Rounds

## Lovejoy Memorial Academic Achievement Awards

Andrea Bickely  
Madilyn Ford

Karie Stark  
Divine Thomas

## Alton High School 2021 Silver Medallion Students

Chloe Ahlers  
Ryleigh Baldwin  
Sydney Brunaugh  
Kammy Champanakhone  
Reiley Clark  
Samuel Clark  
Morgan Cochran  
Danika Cook  
Abbygail Cooley  
Garrett Cooper  
Lydia Criveau  
Benjamin Duke

Kieran Favazza  
Laycee Fish  
Darcie Flanigan  
Ainsley Fortschneider  
Tatiana Gargac  
Hallie Gebelein  
Olivia Gehrig  
Amber Goodman  
Emma Hagerty  
Elana Hatcher  
Brooke Isringhausen  
Jordan Jones

Joel Krueger  
Fletcher Leonard  
Nicole Liley  
August Mayden  
Millie McClaine  
Maggie Ni  
Catherine Northcutt  
Rowan Parrett  
Amy Pattan  
Kierra Patterson  
Alaina Pestana  
Kendall Peuterbaugh

Ryan Reid  
Eva Schwaab  
Broderick Smith  
Olivia Spangler  
Karrie Stark  
Kaytlin Stover  
Divine Thomas  
Jayda Tolle  
Arielle Williams  
Jania Womack  
Adam Wong

## Thank you to our Guardians of Education!

### 2021 Guardians of Education

#### Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

HWRT Oil Company  
Joseph & Catherine Johnson Family  
Foundation  
Karen Wilson State Farm  
Liberty Bank  
Phillips 66  
Charles & Joan Sheppard

#### Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

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

#### Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

Karen Botterbush  
David & Paula Fritz  
Edmond Gray  
CB & Ellen Jackson  
Brenda Walker McCain  
Doug & Stephanie Mendenhall  
Laura & Todd Plummer  
Theresa & Reuben Willis

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

Wendy Adams  
Shirley Aszman  
John Bannister  
Julie & Ethan Basler  
Steve & Barb Batchelor  
Larry & Barb Bellm  
Michael Bellm  
Sonja Collins-Fordson  
Sandra Crawford  
John Cunningham  
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Denby

Gary Dunn  
Julie Gallivan  
Timothy Grant  
Rene Hart  
Laura Hill  
Tawnya Hooper  
David & Barb Jacks  
Melissa King  
Michelle & Thomas Klasner  
Angela Laaker  
Victoria Lehman  
Angela & Reid McDowell  
Ann McLaughlin  
Jody Meggos  
Vivian Monckton  
Dale & Carol Neudecker  
Laura & Rodney O'dell  
Debra Penning  
Brian & Kristen Saenz  
Stacy Saffell  
Patrick & Laura Shansey  
Katie & Steve Slater  
Kenneth Spells

Julie Spurgeon  
Denise & Matthew Stidd  
Elyse Tillman  
Marjorie Wheeler  
Pamela Wickenhauser  
Lynda Willings  
Jenn Young

#### Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)

Susan & Daniel Beers  
Trudi Douglas  
Kimberly Engelman  
Julie Gorsage  
Paije Hamilton  
Linda Lamb  
Karen & Robert Lowe  
Janis Northway  
Nancy Simpson  
Amy Strobel  
Ruth & Roger Waggener  
Danette & Walter Watt

# Digital Announcements and STEM Resources for Our Students

By Jen Herring/ East Elementary



At East Elementary we truly enjoy finding ways to motivate our students.

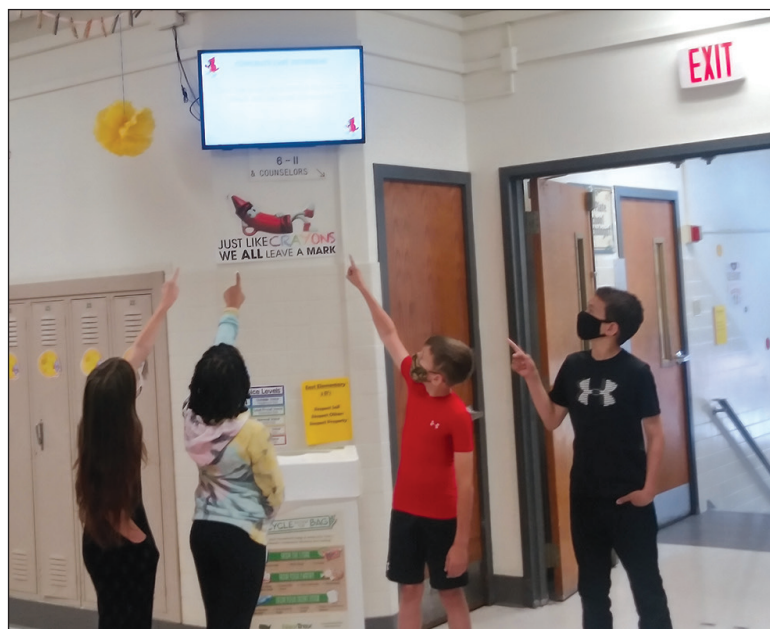
One way is to learn about the interests our students have, and finding a way to tune into those interests. In today's digital age we have found that our students spend a great deal of time watching YouTube videos. Many of them even desire to have their own YouTube channels one day. One student, Fletcher Bumpers, showed this interest last year in Mr. Weaver and

Mrs. Herring's class. We searched for an outlet for Fletcher to have his own show. Digital announcements seemed to be the way to go. Jen Herring applied for several grants to get the project started, but the funding from the Alton Educational Foundation made the project a reality. We hung several televisions in every hallway, lobby, and even in our cafeteria.



The televisions have SMART abilities and can stream YouTube directly. We have also utilized digital slideshows that the Alton School District's Tech Department created for us to modify from our computer and update immediately on the televisions. Students are able to submit videos, images, and special projects to be broadcast as well. They have become an integral part of our communication systems for both students and staff.

The grant also included a drop-down projector for our gymnasium that we were unable to use this year due to restrictions on group size due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Hopefully, next year, we will return to some normalcy, and we will be able to utilize the projector to share our announcements in the gym as well.





## Orville & Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship Fund Winners Announced

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. The Alton Educational Foundation began overseeing the disbursement of scholarship funds in 2018.

***This year's Brunjes Memorial Scholarship winners are Benjamin Duke, Ainsley Fortschneider, and Mia McAfoos.***



**Ainsley Fortschneider** is the daughter of Todd and Shonna Fortschneider and will be attending the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis where she will achieve her Doctorate of Pharmacy Degree.



**Mia McAfoos** is the daughter of Glen and Carrie McAfoos and will be attending the University of Tennessee at Martin where she will earn her Degree in Nursing.



**Benjamin Duke** is the son of Robert and Tonya Duke and will be attending Roosevelt University in Chicago where he will earn a double major in Music Performance and Music Education.

### Music News



In spite of a global pandemic shutting everything down, the Alton School District music program has kept its students engaged this entire year. The directors have come up with creative ways to engage our students through virtual learning, hybrid learning, and in-person learning. Students who remained remote when in-person classes resumed were able to play along and learn from home.

The Alton Marching 100, under the direction of our two new band directors, Blake Korte and Luke Griffin, had their summer band camp and did a fall field show that was recorded on our new home turf and presented as part of a drive-in movie night put together by O'Fallon Township H.S. The Alton H.S. orchestras performed their fall concerts separately in November that were recorded and live-streamed to parents and friends. The instrumental music staff were able to start beginning elementary band and orchestra in November, teaching the students before and after school. The AHS Wind Ensemble recorded *Sleigh Ride*, keeping a several decades old tradition going.

The AHS music department had several students audition for the ILMEA District 6 virtual festival and had the following students selected to participate in the 2021 ILMEA Virtual All-State: Fletcher Leonard, percussion (3rd yr All-State), Ben Duke, viola (2nd yr All-State), Victor Humphrey, viola, Morgan Palmer, soprano II, and Meredith Rulo, alto II.

In March, the AHS orchestras performed separately for an audience of parents, and the Wind Ensemble recorded two pieces.

The Alton H.S. music department also hosted IHSA's virtual Solo & Ensemble Contest with over 500 events and participation from 18 high schools in our region. Alton H.S. had 46 solos and ensembles compete with 32 Division I ratings and 3 "Best of Day" awards.

The Alton H.S. music and theater departments presented *Little Shop of Horrors* April 22-25 with the support from our district administration to an audience of around 90 each night and a pre-recorded virtual performance on April 25.

We are wrapping up this crazy school year on a high note! The Alton H.S. music department performed to pre-registered audiences of our families and friends:

**May 3, Concert Orchestra**

**May 4, Symphonic Orchestra**

**May 5, Concert Band**

**May 6, Symphonic Band**

**May 7, Wind Ensemble**

The AHS choirs presented their Spring Finale Concert Thursday, May 13 and the AMS Orchestras performed for parents on May 13 and 18.

We are so very grateful for the immense support we have had from Kristie Baumgartner, Elaine Kane, and Mike Bellm for letting us keep our music going district wide all year!

*By Laura Plummer*

*Congratulations!*

## Athletic Wrap-up 2020-21 *Chris Kusnerick, Alton High School Athletic Director*

Starting with the Fall of 2020 our Athletic Programs at Alton High School enjoyed many successes and we were very glad we were able to offer some athletic programs despite still dealing with COVID pandemic. We were very happy to see our Redbird student-athletes competing in the various sports and look for bigger and better things next school year.

In the fall, Senior Boys Golfer **Aiden Keshner** shot an 84 in his last round of golf for the Redbirds at the IHSA Boys Regional. Aiden did not qualify for Sectional, but had a very nice year especially in SWC play. Senior Girls Golfer, **Natalie Messinger** qualified for the IHSA Girls Golf Sectional. Natalie took 4th in the Regional with an 80. Natalie shot an 85 at the Sectional to wrap up a fantastic career for Alton High and will continue on to play golf at Rend Lake Junior College. Junior **Dylan Forsythe** finished 19th in the SWC XC Meet held at Clinton Hills and Sophomore **Alayna Rabozzi** finished in 17th place at the SWC Girls XC Meet. In Girls Swim, Senior **Eleni Kotzamanis** had a super day at Edwardsville in the



*Eleni Kotzamanis*

IHSA Swim Sectional on Oct 24th. All of her times would have qualified her for the State Meet in a normal season: 2nd in 200 yd. Free Style 1:53:53, 2nd in 500 yd. Free

Style 5:07:01, and 1st in 100 yd. Back Stroke 57:57. Because of the COVID pandemic the Girls State Swim & Dive meet was not held. Seniors **Lydia Criveau** (1st Team), **Paige Rockholm** (3rd Team), and **Ansley Fortschneider** (2nd Team) all received SWC All-Conference recognition in Girls Tennis last fall. Some of our normal fall sports such as Girls Volleyball, Football, and Boys Soccer had their seasons postponed because of the pandemic. Congratulations to all of our Fall Athletes and their



*Natalie Messinger*

coaches on dealing with some adverse situations, but making it a successful experience for our student-athletes.

The Winter Season featured many ups and downs by our winter teams since we did not know if we were going to play or not. Practices started in early November, but then were shut down till mid-January as the IDPH forced athletics to take a pause throughout the state. Finally, in late January we were able to resume practices and a limited schedule for our Winter sports of Boys and Girls Bowling, Boy Swim & Dive, Dance, Cheer, Boys Basketball, and Girls Basketball. The COVID restrictions created some major challenges for our winter sports with the mask requirements and limited fan attendance. Winter sports looked much different than they ever had in the past. Despite these challenges we had some success along the way. The Varsity Redbird Cheer squad took 1st Place in the ICCA Pinckneyville Invite in February in a virtual performance and the Boys Varsity Bowling squad took 1st Place in the SI Bowling Shootout in Jerseyville. Congrats also to **J'Markus Gary** on being named 1st Team SWC All-Conference in Boys Basketball this past winter. J'Markus ended up averaging 18.3 ppg on the year, which was good enough for 2nd in the league in scoring. **Germayia Wallace** was named 3rd Team SWC



*Paige Rockholm*



*J'Markus Gary*

All-Conference in Girls Basketball this past winter. We had two young men get recognized with 3rd Team SWC All-Conference in Boys Bowling in Freshmen **Austin Rathgeb** and Freshmen **Roman Cross**.

The Spring season consisted of sports we don't usually think of when it comes to spring as Football, Girls Volleyball, and Boys Soccer were played in the months of March and April. When we had snow covering Public School Stadium on February 18th we wondered what the spring would be like. Football got to play 6 games and it



## Athletic Wrap-up 2020-21 *cont.*

was great to hold a Homecoming Game and a Senior Night for a sport that many wondered if we would play during this school year. It was also very neat for our football program and coaches to finally play on the brand new turf field at Public School Stadium. Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball conducted their modified seasons and dealt

with the challenges of COVID superbly. Boys Soccer was also able to enjoy the opportunity of playing on the turf field at Public School Stadium.

The New IHSA Summer season was made up of our normal Spring sports and included Wrestling along with Boys and Girls Track, Softball, Baseball, Boys Volleyball, Boys Tennis, and Girls Soccer. Boys Tennis had a solid season finishing with a 6-12 record overall made up of a team of freshmen and sophomores so the future looks bright for Redbird Boys Tennis. Girls Track had a student-athlete in **Renee Raglin** who qualified for the 3A IHSA State Championships in the 100 m and 200 m sprints by winning the Sectional in both events. Girls Soccer struggled with injuries and dealing with COVID issues,



but finished the season up strong and will only lose 4 seniors. Boys Volleyball had their best season in 6 years and were very competitive the entire year on both the Varsity and JV levels. Boys Baseball and Softball had solid years with Softball going 7-5 in the SWC and finishing with a winning record overall and Baseball finishing at .500 in league play. Boys Track had

their 4 x 400 Relay team qualify for state by taking 2nd Place at the IHSA 3A Sectional meet. The relay team was made up of **Trae Corby, Gerard Bruce, Simon McClaine, and Martin Boey**. Wrestling had an outstanding year with an overall record of 13-4 and 4-2 record in the SWC. Seniors **Lawson Bruce** and **Damien Jones** provided terrific leadership and both also excelled on the mats. Unfortunately, the Wrestling team did not have an IHSA post season because of the COVID pandemic.

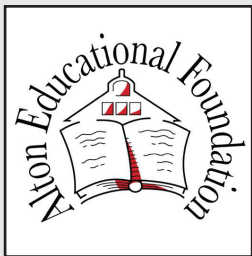
***Check out [altonathletics.org](http://altonathletics.org) for any updates, schedules and notifications of Alton High School Athletics. We look forward to a "Normal" athletic year during the 2021-2022 school year.***



### Ms. Lyles' 6th Grade Social Studies Class is taking history to a whole new level!

In December of 2019, Alton Middle School Sixth Grade Teacher, Bridget Lyles, applied and received funding for a grant to purchase a 3D printer. The project was intended to introduce students and teachers to ways in which 3D printing can enhance core classes such as Math, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.

Although the COVID19 Pandemic delayed the implementation of the 3D printer until students returned to classes this school year, it's impact is already being realized. After a discussion on ancient peoples and technology advancement, a student designed and printed the image **"Blast Off"**.



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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_