



The Guardian

June 2023

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

Guardian of Education Requests Donation to Target Grants Highlighting Diversity

Occasionally, GOE donors will specify their funds donated to be applied for specific grants. Some monies have been earmarked for fine arts, reading, ROAR, and in the case of Melody Favazza's donations, diversity.

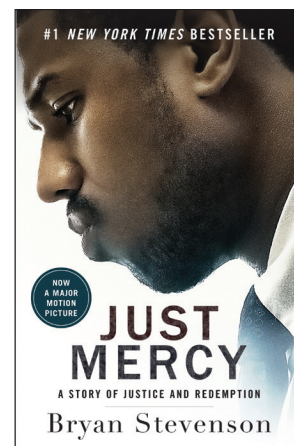
Amy Golley, Coordinator of Educational Equity and Programming for the Alton District, was able to purchase a couple of books to help English teachers with this topic:

Many times, teachers and students struggle with communicating about difficult topics such as racism, protesting, and other events that affect our nation. These novels were chosen to help guide some discussions with those items and allow students a safe place to use their voice. It was and hopefully continues to provide students with a better understanding of self-worth, building camaraderie, and pushing themselves to become more involved in their education.

The book **A Good Kind of Trouble** written by Lisa Moore Ramee was purchased to be used at the middle school. There were two sets of 35 bought and



delivered. The novel is about a twelve-year-old girl named Shayla who is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is follow the rules but in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people are saying she's not black enough.



The book **Just Mercy** written by Bryan Stevenson was purchased to be used at Alton High School. There were two sets of 35 provided. This novel is based on a true story. An acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate, Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.

Journals were purchased as well for the students.

Thank you, Alton Educational Foundation!

Amy Golley,
Educational Equity and
Programming Coordinator

District Awards

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

IEA Teacher of the Year
Amber Sims

ISBE - Those Who Excel
Award Recipient:

Jennifer Herring
Meritorious Service,
Teacher

Jody Bosomworth
Meritorious Service, Teacher

Emerson Electric Educator Award
Amy Mellenthin

YWCA Women of Distinction Award
Felicia Alexander

The AEF salutes the 2022 & 2023 SY recipients!

2022-2023 Guardians of Education

Emeritus (\$1,000 or more)

Michael Bellm
Fiola Family Foundation
Joseph & Catherine Johnson
(Family Foundation)
Karen Wilson (State Farm)
Phillips 66
Piasa Charitable Foundation
(HWRT Oil Company)
Charles & Joan Sheppard

Valedictorian (\$500-\$999)

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

Salutatorian (\$250-\$499)

David & Paula Fritz
Missy & Rick Gibson
Timothy Grant
Edmond & Cathy Gray
Charles & Ellen Jackson
Rance & Lisa Long
Doug & Stephanie
Mendenhall
Dr. Kenneth Spells
The Weiner Family
Theresa & Reuben Willis

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

Wendy Adams
Felicia Alexander
Elizabeth Allen
Erik & Laura Barton

Steve & Barb Batchelor
Larry & Barb Bellm
Melony Biver
Sarah Boyd
Mike & Elizabeth Brey
Bob & Gail Burjes
Carla Hilgert
Sarah Crause
Sandra Crawford
John & Carmen Cunningham
Trudi Douglas
Paul & Dorothy Droste
Gary & Traci Dunn
Jennifer Frimere
Julie Gallivan
Lennie Goeken
Fiona & John Griswold
Rene Hart
Richard Henry Jr.
Dawn Herbst
David & Barbara Jacks
Elaine Kane
Mirsad Kapetanovich

Melissa King
Thomas & Michelle Klasner
Victoria & Michael Lehman
Loellke Plumbing
Amy Maberry
Dennis & Pamela Maxeiner
Cindy McCormick
Peter McFarlane
Ann & Miles McLaughlin
Debbie Miller
Vivian Monckton
Marisa & Tim Murray
Dale & Carol Neudecker
Michelle Norris
Charles & Susan Parr
Patsy & Stephen Saale
Brian & Kristen Saenz
Stacy Saffell
Mary Schell
Brian & Carrie Schildroth
Julie Spurgeon
Denise & Matthew Stidd
Amy Strobel

Mary Pat Venardos
Bonnie & Mark Westcott
Nita & Tom Whitten
Pamela Wickenhauser
Jan Wrischnik

Honor Roll (\$5-\$49)

Jetta Blair
A. Scott Harper
Christine Lafikes
Linda Lamb
Karen & Robert Lowe
Pat & Irene McLaughlin
Janis Northway
Christina Petrea
Rosalie Saffell
Nancy Simpson
Jim Spain
Cathy Stolze
Kara Twichell
Ruth & Roger Waggener
Danette & Quincy Watt

CONGRATULATIONS!

2023 Orville & Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship Fund Winners



The Orville and Kathleen Brunjes Memorial Scholarship was established by Kathleen Brunjes in 1987. Kathleen began the scholarship program by awarding scholarships to outstanding students in the communities in which she and Orville 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 these scholarship funds in 2018. Applicants are evaluated on effort, GPA, community involvement, awards, essay, and recommendations. Two \$1000 scholarships are awarded each year.

This year's selected recipients of the Brunjes Memorial Scholarship are Isabella Hall and Victor Humphrey.

Isabella is the daughter of Joel and Amy Hall. During all four years of high school, Isabella participated in the art club and graphic production of the Tatler Yearbook. Her awards in school have been in the areas of academics and journalism/photos. She plans to attend Lewis and Clark Community College and then Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville, while working towards a major in Actuarial Science.

Victor is the son of James and Dawn Humphrey. In high school, Victor's extra-curricular activities were focused on sports and music. He participated in cross country, swim team, tennis, and symphonic orchestra all four years.

His awards have been in the areas of academics, sports and music. He plans to attend Saint Louis University's Chaifetz School of Business to major in Accounting with a minor in Music and Spanish. He also hopes to study abroad in Madrid at some point.



Guardians of Education Event to be Rescheduled for Fall of 2023

January 25, 2023. This was to be the date of the 7th Annual Guardians of Education Recognition/Appreciation Event scheduled at Alton Middle School. The event is scheduled each year to celebrate and honor the generous donors who graciously support the teachers in the Alton School District. Invitations were sent, breakfast was ordered, decorations were ready, and then it happened. A snow day! Well actually, it was probably more ice than snow; but nonetheless, as it turns out, school was canceled due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, due to difficulties in rescheduling the event for February or March, the event will be rescheduled for the Fall of 2023. Look for invitations to go out early next school year! We hope you are able to come have breakfast with us so we can thank you in person. You will have an opportunity to meet the AEF Board and some recent grant recipients who will share information about their projects. The

format will again be an "open house" format to allow our guests the flexibility to arrive and leave according to their schedules.

Can You Make a One-time Donation?

YES! If you do not wish to contribute on a yearly basis, we will gladly accept any donation! You may also earmark your donated monies towards specific educational areas such as: reading, math, science, history, diversity, technology, trades, STEM, specific district initiatives, etc.

Where Do Your Donated Dollars Go?

The Guardians of Education (GOE) Program was developed in 2014 to raise and retain funds for annual grants teachers can apply for to help support the educational needs of students in the Alton School District. Membership levels range from \$5 to \$1000 and up. Contributions are tax deductible.

2023 Funded Grants

Over \$11, 000 in grants were awarded to fund the following:

Angel Weber, Alton Middle School - Ms. Weber's Sewing Club 2.0

Felicia Alexander, Alton Middle School – Picture This!

Bridget Lyles, Alton Middle School – Sphero My STEAM Hero

Rachel Motsinger, Alton Middle School – Computer Science for the 21st Century with Micro:bit

Penny Salvato, Lovejoy Elementary - Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Two Years and the Other Side of a Pandemic Later:

"From Speech to Text Using a Sound Wall"

I moved to teach first grade in 2019 and was very cognizant of the fact that students often struggled to read because of language processing, speech concerns, or dyslexia. Our speech teacher helped support me as I tried to aid her with student corrections myself when reading certain sounds that they were working on in speech. I learned to pull the corners of my lips up, smile, pull my tongue back, and articulate through my teeth as I enunciated the "r" sound with a student. I realized that speech was imperative to reading and that I had better learn as much as I could about it as soon as possible.

I read a book that put everything into perspective for me, **Speech to Print: Language Essentials for Teachers** by Dr. Louisa Moats. In this text Dr. Moats suggested that teachers of foundational reading need to be experts in the structure and function of language. I learned a lot about phonology, the morphological aspects of words, and syntax. This combined with our new and incredibly strong phonics curriculum made me seek out what sound walls were and how they might benefit my students.

Two years ago, thanks to the Alton Educational Foundation, I was able to purchase the tools I needed to implement a sound wall in my classroom. The kit included kids' mouth pictures as they formed the sounds (phonemes) that we read when we sound out words in text as graphemes (letters and letter combinations.)

It also included some tiny hand mirrors so that students could look at their mouth formation as they practiced making those sounds.

The pandemic, and teaching with masks on, made my first year with the sound wall a non-starter. However, this year, I was able to display the sound wall kid pics as we reviewed graphemes and it was amazing! For students, using the mirrors, feeling their mouths, teeth, lips, and tongue movements all helped them articulate phonemes more clearly. When practicing decoding, or reading by sounding out (graphemes), students would feel or look at their mouth or throat to recall the correlating sound/picture. They have learned to spell by thinking about what my, or their, face does as they work through the sounds in a word. My students have made amazing progress this year in reading! We have been ahead of district expectations as a class average in monthly reading conferencing data all year.

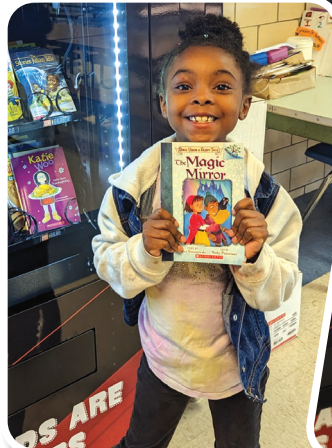
Thank you so much to the AEF for selecting my project for our students. It is my absolute pleasure to do my best for our children and our community and I am very grateful for your support.

Kate Page, 1st Grade Teacher
Eunice Smith Elementary

Alton Educational Foundation Donates Book Vending Machine to Lovejoy Elementary

All of the elementary schools in the Alton School District received Book Vending Machines (BVM) this past school year due to donations made by various organizations. The Alton Educational Foundation was pleased to donate a Book Vending Machine to Lovejoy Elementary. BVMs are repurposed from previous snack vending machines. Students are able to earn tokens for their school's BVM based on criteria set up by the individual school.

John Ducey, the principal at Lovejoy, indicated students can earn a "Golden Redbird Egg" (A token) when they do something that is 'Above and Beyond' the Call of Duty (Character Ed). Also, as part of their "EGGS"ellent Reader Program, when a student hits the 120-book mark, they earn a Golden Redbird Egg as well. Each morning during the student body "morning meeting" any student who has earned a token is recognized and then allowed to receive their reward from the book vending machine afterwards. The BVM is stocked with about a hundred books at a time and over 200 students received a book this past school year. Mr. Ducey said the students love the book vending machine!



Original Three Scholarship

Rebekah Blackmon

Elijah P Lovejoy Memorial Scholarship

Kennedy Stephens

Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial Achievement Award

Anbrielle Blake
Katelyn Czarnecki

Brody Macias
Gabrielle Peuterbaugh

Alton High School 2023 Illinois State Scholars

Rebekah Blackmon
Xavier Carter
Summer Collman
Katelyn Czarnecki
Alyssa Eagleton
Samantha Eales
Audrey Ennis
Grant Fournie

Azure Hall
Isabella Hall
Benjamin Hart
Victor Humphrey
Madison Ingram
Alvin Jones
Kamryn Kizer
Luna Konkol

Jacob Larson
Brody Macias
Peter Malenic
Kalib Mceuen
Aslan Merioles
Louis Miller
Makayla Murphy
James Paris

Melanie Parker
Wesley Patridge
Noah Perkins
Gabrielle Peuterbaugh
Matthew Price
Juliana Rensing
Madison Ross
Meredith Rulo

Kathryn Saenz
Eleanor Schuler
Kathryn Stark
Kennedy Stephens
Aaron Swanson
Cole Tarrant
Quillan Taylor
Megan Yarborough

Highlights From The AHS Music Department

We are thrilled to have Leah (Schultz) Galbraith back in our AHS music department! Leah is an AHS alum (c/o 2007) and was involved in our choral program and the Marching 100, where she met her husband, Justin. We are also excited to welcome Chuck Willard as our new assistant band director at AHS. He is a great addition to our music staff and has helped keep our band program going strong.

The Alton High School theater and music departments presented Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. We were sold out to standing room only for our Friday and Saturday evening performances.

The Alton Middle School orchestra and choir continue their tradition of giving back to those in need through their annual Coffee Concert that was held Friday, May 12. They collected \$688 in monetary donations, \$90 worth of gift cards, and several household and personal items. All of these are given to the school district's McKinney-Vento Fund which supports our families experiencing housing insecurities.



The Symphonic Orchestra once again performed at The Nature's Institute's In Harmony with Nature. This is one of our favorite concerts of the year and it also supports TNI. The Symphonic Orchestra will perform again Friday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m.



After a 3 year hiatus Symphonic Orchestra returned to the University of Illinois High School Orchestra Clinic and performed in the Great Hall at the Krannert Center. We had a fantastic clinic with Dr. Frank Diaz from Indiana University who was very complimentary of our performance.



The Alton High School Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2023 Illinois Music Educators Conference and received a standing ovation and rave reviews from our music colleagues from all over the state. They were also selected to perform at Super State at the University of Illinois Saturday, May 4.

Melanie Parker, 12, flute All-State Honors Band
Brody Macias, 12, violin All-State Orchestra
Ethan Fox, 11, viola, All-State Orchestra
Stephen Whiteside, 10, cello, All-State Orchestra
Will Hussey, 12, bass, All-State Orchestra
Victor Humphrey, 12, viola, All-State Honors Orchestra
Wesley LeBrun, 9, percussion, All-State Honors Orchestra
Aaron Swanson, 12, All-State Chorus
Kyle Neace, 12, All-State Honors Chorus
Matt Taylor, 12, All-State Honors Chorus

Jackson Clayton, 12, received Honorable Mention for his instrumental small ensemble musical composition titled A Thief's Price and was selected to attend the Composition Course at All-State.

Joanna Halliday, 11, was selected to attend the Future Music Educators Seminar.



AHS had 12 students selected to attend the 2023 Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Festival

Athletic Wrap-up 2022-2023

Starting with the Fall of 2022 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 with the COVID pandemic in our rear-view mirror finally. We were very happy to see our Redbird student-athletes competing in the various sports in their normal seasons and are super PROUD of their success on and off the athletic platform.



In the fall, two Redbird **Boys Golfers**, **Sam Ottwell** and **Alex Siatos** both qualified for the IHSA State Tournament with both golfers playing on both days at state. Alex played extremely well in the two Southwestern Conference Tournaments to garner 1st Team All-Conference honors. Sophomore **Girls Golfer**, **Addison Kenney** qualified for the IHSA Girls Golf Sectional after shooting a 74 in the Regional. Addison followed that up with an 85 in the Sectional and just missed the cut for State.



Redbird Lady Tennis squad finished in 5th place in the conference with an 8-8 record overall and return a very good nucleus.

The Varsity **Girls Volleyball** team had a very competitive season with 12 wins on the season and will be under the direction of a new coach in 23-24.

The Redbird **Boys Cross Country** team had another very good season winning

their own Alton Invite, taking 3rd Place at the BWHS Invite, 1st Place at the Kahok Invite, and having 4 runners finish in the top twenty at the SWC Conference race. The **Girls Cross Country** squad, despite limited numbers still, had 3 young ladies place in the top 20 runners at the SWC XC Meet.

The **Boys Soccer** team and **Redbird Football** team had a lot of individual hi-lights and will return numerous players to shoot for more team success in the 23-24 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 ever in Alton Basketball History. The Girls Basketball team won 31 games, which included a Southwestern Conference Championship and also a IHSA Regional Championship. Along the way the Girls won their own Tournament in November, took 1st Place at the Mascoutah Holiday Tournament, and took 1st place in the Highland Tournament and started the year at 25-0.

Girls Wrestling

was in its 2nd year as an IHSA sport this winter and Alton's own **Antonia Phillips** took 3rd Place at state at the 145 lb. weight class. She later was named Alton's Scholar Athlete of the Year. Redbird **Boys Wrestling** kept its streak up of having a state qualifier as **Yaveion Freeman** made it to state after the Redbirds finished the year with an 11-10 record overall.



The **AHS Dance team** had their best season in years as they finished in 4th Place in SWC Dance Competition and also qualified as team for the IDTA State Tournament.

The **Boys Swim team** competed in the Edwardsville Sectional Swim and Dive meet, but did not have any state qualifiers this past year.

Redbird **Boys Basketball** had a challenging year under new Head Coach Dylan Dudley, but have a great group of juniors coming up so it bodes well for the future.

The **Redbird Cheer** also finished in 4th Place in the SWC Cheer Competition and also had their squad qualify for ICCA Cheer State Championship.

In **Bowling**, the Girls had three Sectional qualifiers in **Clara Velloff**, **Rebekah VonPlinsky**, and **Chalyse Jarrett**. On the Boys side, the Redbirds had a state qualifier in **Sam Ottwell**. Sam was able to bowl on both days at the State Tournament.



Athletic Wrap-up 2022-2023 cont.

Spring Season

Redbird athletics had to deal with a very wet spring again that caused multiple changes in the various schedules.

Boys Tennis had a solid season finishing with a 9-11 record overall made up of a team of sophomores and juniors. Next year looks to be very promising for Redbird Boys Tennis as only 1 senior played in our top 6.



Girls Track had two student-athletes in freshmen **Rayna Raglin** and **Kaylea Lacey** who both qualified for the 3A IHSA State Championships. Kaylea Lacey made it in the High Jump and finished in 8th to be a State medalist. Rayna qualified in 3 events in the 100m, 200m, and the Long Jump. Rayna took 6th in the 100m and 7th in the Long Jump to medal in two events at state.

In **Boys Track**, the Redbirds had their largest group in many years make the trek to Charleston and the State Boys Track Meet with 3 Relay teams and 3 individual events for the Redbirds. Senior **Simon McClaine** ended up taking 6th in the 300m Hurdles and was the best finisher for the Redbirds.



post-season match.

Boys Baseball and Softball had a lot of individual highlights in their two sports and played all season long with very young squads.

Lady Redbird **Girls Soccer** had another solid season finishing up with a 11-10-1 record overall, dealing with numerous injuries along the way and 5-5 in the Southwestern Conference, while reaching the IHSA Regional Championship game.



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 2023-2024 school year.

Madison County I Unit 73 Retired Teachers Association Makes a Memorial Bench Donation to AEF in Honor of Philip Robbins



In September of 2022, the Madison County I Unit 73 Retired Teachers Association took up a collection to honor Phil Robbins' memory with a memorial bench donation. Phil began his teaching career at Western Military Academy as a mathematics

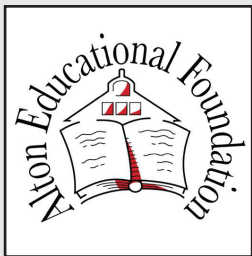
instructor. During his years at Western, he also served as a coach for swimming, cross country and drama, and as an Athletic Director. After Western closed in 1971, Phil was hired by the Alton School District. While in Alton, Phil served as a mathematics teacher, Department Chairperson, Division Chairperson, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal (1993-2002) at Alton High School. The high school at the time Phil worked there was located on the campus of the current middle school.

Phil also served as Chief Negotiator for the Alton Education Association for more than ten years.

After a 39-year career in education, Phil retired in 2002, but continued his legacy of service to the Alton School District as an elected School Board Member, and to retired educators through the Retired Teachers Association at the Madison County and Illinois State level.

He served as President of the Madison County Retired Teachers Association. He was elected by the teachers in Illinois to serve as Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. Phil was also a lifetime member of the Illinois Education Association and National Education Association.

Phil passed away on November 3, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, children, Jonathan (Stephani) and Jennifer (Steven), and five grandchildren.



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

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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 _____