



Alumni



The A+ Foundation
2014-2015
Report to the
Community

Academics



The Arts

Athletics

Achievement

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*West Aurora Alumni

President's Letter 2014-2015 Report to the Community

It is with pride that we share our 2014-2015 Report to the Community with you and say THANK YOU for your interest in and support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools. With your help, we are making a difference.

The 2014-2015 Report to the Community shares results of our programmatic efforts for the 2014-2015 school year and financial and donor information for the calendar year ending December 31, 2014. As a result, a sponsor of a spring program, who made a financial gift in 2015, will be acknowledged as a sponsor but will not be listed in the 2014 donor listing since their gift was received after December 31, 2014. Our objective is to share with you school year activities of the A+ Foundation while continuing to present financial information on a calendar year basis.

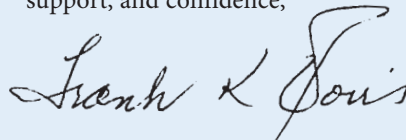
It has been a year of growth for our Foundation. One of our growth initiatives came from the \$25,000 Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley's Challenge Grant and the remarkable support received from friends and alumni. In less than six months we fulfilled and exceeded the grant requirements. As a result, A+ now has an Endowed Reading Fund, with a current balance in excess of \$63,000, which will generate income in perpetuity to fund programs that will help students who are not reading at grade level.

We are pleased to be able to share a significantly expanded list of sponsors of our Excellence in Education and Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor events. Highlights of these two significant activities can be found on pages 3 and 11 and the listing of sponsors is shared on page 8. A+ extends a warm and sincere thank you to these sponsors. Without their sponsorship, these significant, student based events could not be held.

At our Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor celebration in April, the A+ Foundation honored two women for their ongoing commitment to the students of District 129. Joanne Harris, in memory of her parents, Robert D. and Betty Hosler Harris, established a fund to support children who need a little extra help, who may be categorized as "at-risk", or simply need someone to capture their imagination and believe in their ability. Tanya Wyeth was recognized for her extraordinary resume of volunteer work at both Freeman Elementary and Washington Middle Schools. She is appreciated for her wonderful sense of giving, her constant support, and her terrific sense of humor.

These continue to be difficult times for all organizations that depend on the State of Illinois for some portion of their funding. The A+ Foundation is pleased that you share our conviction that there is no activity more important to the future of our great country than the education of our young people. We thank all who have taken their time to read to a child, help tutor a student, or given dollars in support of an enrichment program. Your involvement is helping to make a difference. We encourage you to continue your commitment.

With appreciation for your interest, support, and confidence,



Frank K. Voris, President
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

SAVE
THE DATES

Banding Together
Saturday,
September 12, 2015
Two Brothers Roundhouse

Hall of Honor
Friday and Saturday,
April 22-23, 2016

2015 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor and Legacy of Lights Recognition Ceremony

The A+ Foundation’s annual spring signature event celebrates the induction of former West Aurora High School graduates into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor, which began in 2006, recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves beyond their high school years through their significant accomplishments.

A+ welcomes honorees, their family, friends, and supporters of West Aurora District 129 on both Friday and Saturday of the Hall of Honor weekend. The honorees and guests spend Friday at the high school sharing their experiences with students and staff. At the end of an event-filled day, the Inductee’s plaques are revealed in the Auditorium foyer. On Saturday evening, the Inductees are honored at a banquet dinner, and the evening is dedicated to their achievements.

The Hall of Honor program has two goals

- To honor distinguished alumni for their achievements
- To raise the self-expectations of West students with the realization that the distinguished alumni grew up in their neighborhoods and attended their schools



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

MELISSA HILL

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is pleased to have Melissa Hill be the recipient of the 2015 West Aurora Alumni Scholarship. During her four years at West, she was a member of the dance team; marching, concert, and jazz bands; drama program, swim team, and student member of District 129’s Board of Education. She plays the saxophone, was a rank leader in the marching band and sang and danced in the school’s spring musicals. Her plans have her going to the University of Minnesota to pursue a bachelor’s degree in political science. We wish Melissa the very best in her college career.



Past Honorees

Adam Slaker, 1873
 Frank H. McWethy, '01
 Ruth VanSickle Ford, '15
 H. Ashley Barber, '29
 E. Neil Foster '38
 John Drury, '45
 Arthur R. Wyatt, '45
 Richard Olson, '47
 J. Allison Binford, '48
 Edward Ochsenschlager, '50
 Max Baratz, '52
 Robert Garrison '54
 Martha Evans Sloan, '57
 Albert Alschuler, '58
 Phillip E. Johnson, '58
 Walter Bothe, '59
 William C. Gifford, '59
 James Puklin, '59
 H. William Habermeyer, Jr., '60
 Bruce Scafe, '60
 George Everitt, '61
 Kittie Barton Frantz, '61
 Pam Kohn Hait, '61
 Arthur Lage, '61
 Carol Cauldwell McElroy '61
 Robert Taggart, '61
 Thomas F. Gallagher, '62
 James Groninger, '62
 Wendell Minor, '62
 Raymond W. Reed, '64
 William Beschorner, '65
 Paul Ormond, '67
 Thomas C. Ewing, '69
 Randy Shilts, '69
 Stephen F. Sundlof, '69
 Eric Halfvarson, '70
 Thomas Skilling, '70
 Michael Cavender, '72
 Bruce Kammenzind, '76
 R. Lawrence Hatchett, '77
 Kathleen L. Forsell Caldwell, '79
 Jacqueline Pongracic, '79
 J. Scott Jordan, '80
 Michael Oros '80
 Annbritt Gemmer duChateau, '83

2015 Honorees



DR. JOAN SWINEHAMER EDWARDS
 CLASS OF 1963

Dr. Joan Swinehamer Edwards is Professor and Director of the Center for Global Nursing Scholarship at Texas Woman's University. Dr. Edwards also spent four years teaching in the jungles of Borneo. Her career includes practice in labor and delivery, leadership of People-to-People delegations to China, and world-wide conference presentations. In 2006, she was elected President of the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). A 2011 Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Edwards' consultation between the Indonesian government and the World Health Organization resulted in the passage of the first Indonesian Nurse Practice Act.



DR. LINDA DEMETRY COWAN
 CLASS OF 1966

Linda Demetry Cowan left her mark on the field of Public Health. She worked as a biomedical research scientist before becoming a professor and medical researcher at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Cowan was appointed Chair of her department and served as a visiting professor at Harvard and New York University and as a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Her research took her to many places, including Africa, where she risked her own health to find solutions to public health problems claiming countless lives of children and adults alike. Dr. Cowan passed away in 2013.



DR. MICHAEL FAGEL
 CLASS OF 1970

Mike Fagel works in local, national, and international arenas to give on-the-ground assistance in his field of Disaster Management. He was a Critical Incident Briefer at the Oklahoma City Bombing, and, in September, 2001, Dr. Fagel was stationed a short distance from Ground Zero, supporting the Fire Department of New York. He founded Aurora Safety, a company which offers services designed to minimize and thwart potential disasters. He has served the Department of Justice, Defense Department, Department of Energy, and Department of Homeland Security.



DR. RODGER PIELET
 CLASS OF 1979

Dr. Rodger Pielet believed that appearance is the foundation of a person's self-confidence, esteem, and value. He served as a faculty member at the University of Chicago's School of Surgery, and his work led to his private practice as a cosmetic surgeon. He donated services to the Northwest Medical Teams and Doctors Without Borders in remote Mexican villages and performed reconstructive surgery on those with congenital deformities. He received recognition for his surgical techniques and innovations. Dr. Pielet passed away on January 18, 2014.

2014-2015 Fund-A-Need

Fund-A-Need offers an opportunity for you to connect with individual classroom needs. Fund-A-Need programs enhance opportunities for their students. Individual donors can browse through the proposals submitted by staff and select a proposal they wish to fund.

To ensure the accountability of Fund-A-Need, volunteers from the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools work closely with District 129 officials to review and approve proposals. Donors receive thank you notes from the classroom teacher and students and a letter of acknowledgement from the Foundation for their sponsorship.

To see proposals that are still seeking funding, please visit www.aplusfoundation.org and click the "Fund-A-Need" button.

GOODWIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Get Your Mouth Ready! (At Home AND School!) to READ – Books for parents of first graders to practice reading at home. — *Funding provided by: Patricia Cawley-Whitney and Paul Eccher, The Vaya Group, Robert and Betty Hosler Harris fund*

JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Arts in our Community Paramount Theatre – Provided an opportunity for 8th grade students to experience musical theater. — *Funding provided by the Wadsworth Family Foundation*

Senior Citizen Breakfast & Band Concert - An opportunity for senior citizens to enjoy breakfast and a band concert with students at Jefferson. — *Funding provided by the A+ Foundation, Maribeth Dillman, Lila Fagan and Jaime Faulhaber, The Vaya Group*

JEWEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

WWII Unit – A unit covering events surrounding and including World War II, a field trip to Cantigny, a simulated boot camp, and a USO show. — *Partial funding provided by the A+ Foundation and the Janet Kirchner Isler Endowment Fund*

NICHOLSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Author Visit – Brings in an author to speak to the student body. — *Funding provided Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund and the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools.*

Drum Club – Provides drums for practice and performance for 50+ students. — *Funding provided by the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools.*

SCHNEIDER ELEMENTARY

Around the World – Whole-school event to study different countries and cultures. — *Funding provided through the Janet Kirchner Isler Endowment Fund*



...on reading and writing and the delight of learning.



...on dynamics and harmony and the pleasure of music.



...on crayons and markers and the warmth of smiles.

An A+ Spotlight...



...on connections and hugs and the warmth of understanding.



...on attention and focus and learning to be an audience.



...on teachers and turtles and becoming eager students.

TODD SCHOOL

The following proposals were funded entirely by the Robert D. and Betty Hosler Harris Fund

A Visit From Miller's Petting Zoo – An opportunity for students to experience 25-35 animals at their school

Dave Herzog's Marionettes – Provided two marionette shows for students and their parents.

Family Literacy Night – An annual Reading Night at Todd

Let's Explore Old McDonald's Farm through Puppets – An artistic experience for students through various forms of storytelling.

And an additional Todd School proposal funded as follows:

Reading is Magic – A program with Snowball the Magic Reading Rabbit.

— Funding provided by: Scott Voris, Jim & Clare Toynton, and the Harris Fund

WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Mikaelson Author Visit – A 75 minute program on "Becoming an Author of Your Own Life". *— Funding provided by Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund and James Groninger*

General Jog – A 5-K race to provide funding for the PBIS program (promoting Positive Behavior) at Washington. *— Partial funding provided by the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools.*



...on fortitude and perseverance and finishing the race.



...on letters and numbers and knowing that you count.



...on brass and reeds and following direction.

WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Above the Influence – Incentives for programs on drug, alcohol and bully prevention at elementary schools. — *Funding provided by Scott Voris*

College Readiness Workshop – A one-day summer workshop to provide vital information for students on college admissions and application process. — *Funding provided by the Wadsworth Family Foundation*

Famous First Words – Provided books to get students “hooked” on reading. — *Partial funding provided by Jim and Clare Toynton*

Young Hearts for Life – A Cardiac Screening program — *Funding provided by Jim and Clare Toynton and James Groninger*

Freshman Academy Canoeing Fieldtrip – 50-60 students learn about river life. — *Funding provided by Catherine VanHooser, Wadsworth Family Foundation, and Bob & Randi Ochsenchlager*

Peer Mediation- 20 students are selected and trained to be mediators and conduct mediations between students in conflict — *Funding provided by Brian & Laura Hunger*

CNA Program – Purchase of training materials for students in Basic Nurse Assistant Program — *Funding provided by Kluber Architects*

Tennis Program Ball Machines – Provided funding to purchase tennis balls machines for players to practice their techniques and strokes from a consistent feeder allowing them to work on footwork, their forehand, backhand and volley strokes. — *Funding provided by the Richard and Carol Wyatt Fund*

The Robert and Betty Hosler Harris Fund provided funding for two Success Academy Programs —

Success Academy Incentive Program – Provides incentives for students to earn in the Academy’s Alternative programs.

Success Academy Student Empowerment – A mentorship and advocacy program to motivate and empower students to reengage in their educational experience.

The A+ Foundation provided funding for the following programs at West High —

Book Club – Provides paperback books for monthly student meetings

Chris Herren Presentation - Provides two programs about drug prevention

An A+ Spotlight...



...on ‘what if’s’ and options and choosing correctly.



...on practice and passion and hitting all the right notes.



...on service and contributions and thinking of others.



...on collaboration and leadership and getting the job done.

2014 Memorial Gifts

The passing of good friends and supporters of our Foundation is always a sad time. When significant memorial gifts are received, the Foundation works closely with the family of the deceased to ensure that the donations match with the appropriate Foundation project to best align with the interests of the deceased. The Foundation expresses its appreciation to all who made memorial gifts to the A+ Foundation in memory of loved ones and cherished friends. Memorial gifts were received in memory of the following individuals:

- John Hutchings
- Rick Lowey
- Gert Little
- Doug Zolper
- Melissa Zolper Davidson
- Roger Bernard
- Bud Gamage
- Larry Porter
- Rodger Pielet
- James "Ed" Lyons
- Suzanne Feltes
- Mary Harkness
- Joyce Poss White
- Sandra Whitelaw
- Donna Williams
- Richard Wyatt
- Andrew Peters

Recognition/Celebration Gifts

For

Dave & Sandy Hipp
Richard Wyatt

Pathway of Honor

The following individuals have been honored with a brick placed in the Pathway of Honor at West High School. These bricks have been purchased by family, friends and colleagues to celebrate their contributions.

Kathy Navota from the A+ Board
Tony "Kak" Kakoliris from the West High School Administration
Bruce Scafe from Russ Schmuhl

Excellence in Education and Hall of Honor Sponsors

GOLD

Aurora Housing Authority
Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.
Artlip and Sons, Inc.
Aurora University
Clear Perspective Advisors
Dunham Fund
Durham School Services
Frost Electric Company, Inc.
Kelmescott Communications
Old Second National Bank
PMA Financial Network, Inc.
Robbins Schwartz
Studio GC
Vaya Group
Waubonsee Community College

BRONZE

Aurora Metals
Cordogan, Clark & Associates
eChalk
Olsson Roofing Company, Inc.
Sikich, LLP

FRIENDS

City of Aurora
Bruce and Margot Goldsmith
Scott & Linda Jordan
Michael and Ann Oros
Pike Systems, Inc
Bruce Scafe
Wine Sergi & Company, LLC

SILVER

Anonymous
Crowe Horwath

Banding Together Sponsors

Konen Insurance
Tanna Farms
Hollywood Casino
Painters Dist. Council #30
Arnold Lies Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Briney
Pat and Bert Swanson
Dave & Kathy Lisberg
Kevin Fitzpatrick

Nancy & Lowell Carpenter
Pat & Ingrid Roney
Scott & Michelle Voris
Lynn Head
Christie Hahn
Jackie & Carl Buchner
Michael S. Smith
Frank & Char Voris

Members of the COMMITTEE of SEVENTY-FIVE

Our fundraising effort to meet and exceed the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley's Challenge Grant was developed through asking friends and alumni to consider making a \$1000 gift and to be recognized as members of the Committee of Seventy-Five. As of March 31, 2015, the following friends and alumni have responded with either a gift or a three year pledge in an amount of \$1000 or more. We appreciate their confidence in and support of our effort in creating an endowed fund in an amount of at least \$100,000 to support reading initiatives in our elementary schools. As of March 31, 2015, we have received gifts and pledges in excess of \$70,000. Our 2015 objective is to raise an additional \$30,000. If you are not already a member of the COMMITTEE of SEVENTY-FIVE, we encourage you to consider becoming a member and joining these early supporters of the effort.

Anonymous
 Jim and Ruth Benson
 Dave and Helen Bergman
 Jeff and Pat Butler
 Ted and Diane Crawshaw
In honor of their former students
 Sherry Eagle
*In honor of Harrison and
 Braeden Fischhoff*
 Tish Evers
 Thomas Gallagher
 John and Mary Ann Gee
 Peter and Susan Grometer
 James Groninger
 Ron and Jan Hem
 Tom and Sonni Herget
 Dave and Sandy Hipp
In honor of Frank Voris' birthday
 Gary and Mary Jewel
*In Celebration of Alex,
 Abby and Sam Kott*
 Bruce Kammenzind
 Hedy Lindgren

George and Brenda Malina
 Jim and Jan Mamminga
 John McKee
 Mark and Nina Menis
 Fran and Bill Myers
 Irv and Mary Ochsenschlager
 Bob and Randi Ochsenschlager
 Dennis Olden
 Neal and Mary Clark Ormond
 Paul and Sue Ormond
 Michael and Ann Oros
 Mike and Nancy Pehan
 Dave and Mary Ann Petree
 Linda Pilmer and Dennis Stone
 Jerry Richardson
In memory of Delois Richardson
 Martha Evans Sloan
 Edward and Sharon Stredde
 Char and Frank Voris
 Ralph and Linda Voris
 Scott and Michelle Voris
 Brent and Jean Wadsworth
 Ann and David Ward

About A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

A+ is an all-volunteer organization with an eye to the past, our heart in the present, and a mind to the future.

A+ serves as your way to connect with and give back to the District 129 school community. In order to do that, we serve as the district's alumni association, and we also fund 'wish' programs for the district's schools.

A+ is proud of School District 129's tradition of excellence, and we are committed to see that tradition continue.



Our Vision

Enrich the curriculum
 Inspire excellence in students and staff
 Expand opportunities for community involvement
 Foster alumni connections

An A+ Spotlight...



...on insight and foresight and recognizing beauty in all forms.



...on patience and thank you's and experiencing sweet rewards.



...on selflessness and spirit and staying the course.
(Frank Voris presents Friends of A+ award to Tanya Wyeth)

2015 Friends of A+ Awards

As part of their fiftieth class reunion, the class of 1958 undertook the project of funding a casting of a life-size bronze bust of BLACK HAWK which now resides in the main foyer of West Aurora High School. This project included extensive research on the man and his life. Great care has been given to transforming references of BLACK HAWK from the realm of school mascot to that of a symbol of a man who was highly regarded for his wisdom, loyalty, bravery, and determination towards the interests of his people.

Beginning in 2013, the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools, initiated the *Friends of A+ Awards*. These awards honor individuals and/or organizations who have made significant contributions to the students in District 129 and who exemplify the traditions of Black Hawk. These recipients work behind the scenes to enhance the educational experience in and outside of the classroom. Each year, at the Hall of Honor Banquet, A+ presents the recipients with replicas of the bust of Black Hawk created by Gareth Curtiss.

The A+ Foundation continues to seek distinguished alumni for our Hall of Honor and recommendations for our Friends of A+ awards. If you have an individual that you would like to nominate, please fill out the online nomination form or contact us at info@aplusfoundation.org.

2015 Friends of A+ Recipients

JOANNE HARRIS — Joanne Harris established the Robert D. and Betty Hosler Harris Fund in honor of her parents, the fund's namesakes. Because of the social, economic, and academic pressures faced by many children, Joanne supports at-risk programs like Success Academy and Todd Early Childhood Center. She believes that our society cannot afford to waste the potential of any of our young people.

TANYA WYETH — Tanya focuses her prodigious energy on the students, the staff members, and the administrators of the schools where she devotes her time. Staff members who have worked with Tanya describe her as unique, a constant support, and an individual with a terrific sense of humor. All these coupled with a wonderful sense of giving make Tanya so deserving of recognition.

PREVIOUS FRIENDS OF A+ AWARD WINNERS

2013: Jim & Betty Carson, Brent & Jean Wadsworth

2014: Janet Momper, Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley



Excellence in Education Award Recipients – 2015

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is pleased to partner with West Aurora High School and District 129 in sponsoring the annual Excellence in Education Dinner and Recognition Ceremony. This evening of distinction recognizes the upper 5% of the senior class as well as their parents and an educator whom each student has selected as the most influential in his educational life. Educators include elementary, middle, and high school teachers, music instructors, mentors, tutors, coaches, and club sponsors. The event highlights the joy of accomplishment and the significance of gratitude. A+ is proud of its affiliation with this event.

2014 Influential Educators

SELECTED BY ACADEMICIANS

Angie Cassetto – *Science Teacher – West Aurora*
 Anthony Rizzo – *English Teacher/Cross Country Coach – West Aurora*
 Bill Stanley – *Counselor – West Aurora*
 Chris Ranallo – *PE Teacher/Swimming Coach – West Aurora*
 Christi Castenson – *World Languages Teacher – West Aurora*
 Christina Tammen – *Social Studies Teacher – West Aurora*
 David Hammarberg – *Drafting Teacher – West Aurora*
 Gail Wright – *Piano Teacher and Aunt*
 Janet Luberdá – *Chemistry Teacher – West Aurora*
 Jen Pauley – *English Teacher – West Aurora*
 Joe Maston – *Math Teacher – West Aurora*
 Joseph Sustersic – *History Teacher – West Aurora*
 Ken Ruffalo – *English Teacher & Drama Director – West Aurora*
 Kim Dirck – *English Teacher – West Aurora*
 Kyra Haynes – *6th grade Math Teacher – Jefferson Middle School SD129*
 Lauren Miller – *English Teacher/Dance Team Coach – West Aurora*
 Levi Treadway – *CTE Teacher – West Aurora*
 Liz Hutchinson – *Choir Director – West Aurora*
 Matthew Love – *Math Teacher – West Aurora*
 Maureen Ryan – *Psychology Teacher & FEA Advisor – West Aurora*
 Meghan Cochran – *Counselor – West Aurora*
 Nicole Faulstich – *Math Teacher – West Aurora*
 Paul Kieffer – *Teacher – West Aurora*
 Randi Schoon – *Spanish Teacher – West Aurora*
 Robert Payne – *Social Studies Teacher – West Aurora*
 Dr. Rod Schueller – *Band Director – West Aurora*
 Ryan Gatbunton – *Counselor – West Aurora*
 Steve Stern – *Physics Teacher & Golf Coach – West Aurora*

Award Recipients

Maria Argyrou	Liem Gearen	Ashlynn Maczko	Marissa Schmid
Hailee Brauer	Miranda Gollwitzer	Melissa Medellin	Rebecca Siedelman
Colleen Brown	Melissa Hill	Rebecca Pearson	Ashley Shropshire
June Castro	Emily Hollenbaugh	Maggie Perez	William Spooner
Luke Cavender	Victoria Hunger	Mia Pidlaoan	Meredith Teuscher
Jacqueline Chavez	James Iglesias	Jessica Puga	James Tunney
Stephanie Cheng	Emily Isaacson	Issa Romulo	Francheska Viejon
Rose Fitzgerald	Tori Joray	Cole Rundle	Khaunsavan
Megan Fitzgerald	Kaitlyn Leung	Madison Runyan	Vongphakdy
Danielle Fogle	Bailey Lewis	Cynthia Saucedo	Sarah Wright
Cesar Gamboa	Jared Liebelt	Emma Scatterday	Jason Sak

An A+ Spotlight...



...on pride and accomplishment and realizing hard work's rewards.



...on effort and mastery and praising achievement.



...on friendships and todays and preparing for tomorrow.



...on parents and children and focusing on the journey.



It has been said that

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

The A+ Foundation is proud to be an active, supportive member of “our village.”



...on children and mentors and moving upwards.



...on holidays and every days and celebrating them all.

THE A+ FOUNDATION FOR Who We Are an

A+ is an all-volunteer organization with an eye to the past, our heart in the present, and a mind to the future.

A+ serves as your way to connect with and give back to the District 129 school community. In order to do that, we serve as the District’s Alumni Association, and we also fund ‘wish’ programs for the District’s schools. A+ is proud of School District 129’s tradition of excellence, and we are committed to see that tradition continue.

2014 - 2015 has been an exciting year for the A+ Foundation. The Executive Board is growing and includes the addition of a Web Director and an A+ Newsletter. Our Board continues to be peopled by dedicated and enthusiastic members; we have added donors, and our annual A+ events were attended by record numbers. Each event illustrated the wealth of time, talent, and creativity that graces District 129 through participation in the A+ Foundation. Each of these events are proof of the ever growing partnership between the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools and the District students and staff which it serves.



WEST AURORA SCHOOLS: and What We Do

The summer of 2014's **Banding Together** was another incredible A+ happening. *Banding Together* features performances by current choral students, former music students, and a wealth of talented alumni. Soloists, bands, and choral groups delighted the 100+ patrons of the arts. The audience joined in this musical extravaganza and the evening proved to be a festival which was uniquely West! This event continues to assist in the funding of the Meg Papadolias Endowment for the Arts. The monies raised go into the Papadolias Endowment which will continue to subsidize our musical arts programs. Don't be left out this summer — join us on September 12, 2015.



...on talent and ensembles and singing with purpose.



...on soloists and audiences and applauding gifts of music.



...on agelessness and entertainment and playing with heart.

An A+ Spotlight...



...on spirit and precision and marching with pride.

Another mighty Blackhawks football season saw **The A+ Alumni Tent** up and running this Fall., hosting 100+ alumni at our homecoming football game. Located in the north end zone, the **A+ Alumni Tent** hosted raffles, give-a-ways, snacks, and provided A+ seating on bleachers positioned right in the end zone. Friends reconnected and new friendships were forged.

A+ Board members also visited our elementary, middle and high schools' **Open Houses** where they sold the 2014 - 2015 A+ District Calendars. The Board Members met community members and talked about A+ and what they can do for the schools. These connections broadened the community's knowledge about A+ through one-on-one contacts, brochures, and fun give-aways. A+ has the goal of becoming a household name in order to generate support of all of our students through augmenting curricular and extracurricular programs.

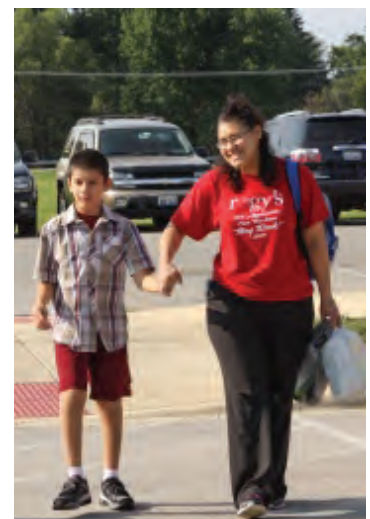


...on faculty and staff and working together.

In conjunction with the **Incoming Freshman** (future class of 2019!) **Orientation** at West High, hosted its annual **Spaghetti Dinner**. And, although the weather proved most uncooperative, the A+ Board, members, members of the central administration team, and fun-loving volunteers served spaghetti dinners to the moms, dads, and the excited incoming Freshman class. Sodexo Food Services generously donated the great food, and the Student Ambassadors, West's elite service organization, gave tours of the ever-expanding high school. The Registration Raffle added to A+'s ability to provide quality programs for our students.



...on diversity and celebrations and embracing differences.



...on respect and admiration and getting there together.

The annual **Excellence in Education Dinner**. This event was a cooperative effort between the A+ Foundation, District 129, and the generosity of members of the Aurora business community. The dinner honored the top 5% of the high school senior class and each of those student's most influential educator. 28 educators, ranging from private music instructors to middle and high school teachers, were honored by each student as being the educator whose impact made a significant difference in his/her life. Each of the 44 students and their parents/guardians received special recognition for their ongoing belief in academic distinction and accomplishment.

The **A+ Certificates of Appreciation** continued their appearance at all our District schools and offices. Teachers, administrators, office personnel, and building staff were feted by a personal visit by a member of the A+ 'cheerleading squad' (otherwise known as our A+ Board members). Through these one of a kind, beautifully created certificates, teachers, staff, and administration are applauded by community/school members who, through their contribution to the A+ Fund, congratulate, thank, or encourage these individuals. Personal messages are included, and the recipients receive their certificates surrounded by their students, colleagues, and other staff members. Photos of these presentations are then posted on the A+ website for all to enjoy! The A+ Certificates of Appreciation have become another way that A+ helps recognize excellence throughout the school year.

An A+ Spotlight...



...on patriotism and service and honoring both.



...on sportsmanship and teamwork and respecting the game.



...on homecoming and parades and remembering alumni.



...on performance and celebration and joining in tomorrow's dance.

A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2014

FUND	Beginning Balance 12/31/2013		
		Contributions	Fundraising
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Endowment Fund	243,569.32	25.00	
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Fund	87,587.62	26,137.25	24,347.11
Dr. Sherry R. Eagle Education Endowment Fund	81,391.63		
Sten & Lucile Halfvarson Endowment Fund	14,534.06		
Janet Kircher Isler Endowment Fund	159,830.99		
Meg Papadolias Endowment Fund	17,946.50	25.00	
West Aurora High School Fund in Memory of Richard J. Dorsey	2,702.85	2,050.00	
Richard & Carole Wyatt Endowment Fund	21,740.60	4,000.00	
West Aurora High School Library Endowment Fund	25,014.79	15,000.00	
Smith Elementary School Scholarship	-	1,000.00	
Robert D. & Betty Hosler Harris Fund	-	7,500.00	
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Reading Fund	-	21,466.66	
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Reading Endowment Fund		41,920.66	
West Aurora High School Alumni Scholarship Fund	-	56.00	
A+ Foundation checking account held within the CFFRV	-	9,248.00	
Checkbook at Old Second National Bank (#10101021524)	8,863.99	782.00	
Total of all funds	663,182.35	129,210.57	24,347.11
Percentage of total receipts / disbursements (current year-to-date)		67.48%	12.72%
Percentage of total receipts / disbursements (year ending December 31, 2013)		50.08%	26.83%
Percentage of total receipts / disbursements (year ending December 31, 2012)		56.35%	9.55%
Notes:	(1) These funds do not include investment of it's principle and therefore will not include interest income or realized and unrealized gains and losses.		

Our Mission:

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools supports and promotes educational, cultural and charitable programs for the students and alumni of School District 129. Our not-for-profit foundation provides this support through grants, programs and scholarships to enhance learning lifelong opportunities for their recipients.



RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			Ending Balance 12/31/2014	
Investment Income	(Un)realized Gain/Loss	Transfer	General	Program Services	Transfer		
3,511.88	12,591.42				9,034.00	250,663.62	
		11,634.00	7,563.66	56,803.60	4,000.00	81,338.72	(1)
1,198.01	4,271.36					86,861.00	
213.81	762.28					15,510.15	
2,315.22	8,446.98			1,200.00		169,393.19	
262.57	913.67	3,000.00				22,147.74	
			2.65			4,750.20	(1)
350.84	1,124.49			450.00		26,765.93	
398.29	1,434.56					41,847.64	
				1,000.00		-	(1)
					1,850.00	5,650.00	(1)
			211.64		21,255.02	-	(1)
68.12	52.67	21,255.02	139.13			63,157.34	
		500.00	2.02			553.98	(1)
		500.00	632.88		750.00	8,365.12	(1)
			1,001.81	6,631.76		2,012.42	(1)
8,318.74	29,597.43	36,889.02	9,553.79	66,085.36	36,889.02	779,017.05	
4.34%	15.46%		12.63%	87.37%			
3.27%	19.83%		11.84%	88.16%			
8.20%	25.90%		11.55%	88.45%			





How Can You Support the A+ Foundation?

Your support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is crucial. Regardless of the size of your donation, be assured that it will be put to work for the maximum benefit promoting educational excellence.

A+ raises money for the District through a variety of types of gifting...

BEQUESTS:

A bequest is leaving something from your estate in a gift to the A+ Foundation. Bequests are often made to fund a specific school program or area of interest.

Janet Kircher Isler taught at Greenman, Lincoln, Smith, and Freeman schools during her 23 year career as a dedicated, caring teacher from 1942 until her retirement in 1965. Her good work and dedication to the students of West Aurora continues through the fund she established by including West Aurora Schools in her bequest. Elementary school enrichment programs in geography, her special interest, and other subjects are funded annually from the income generated from her bequest. Her commitment to and love for the students of District 129 will be felt for generations to come.

MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Memorial funds generally begin with a single donation from an individual or group to honor the memory of someone who had been special to the schools in District 129. The donations often come in lieu of flowers at the funeral.

When Dick Wyatt passed away a few years ago, his family asked that memorial gifts be made to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Students. Those memorial gifts from friends and family were used to create the Richard and Carole Wyatt Endowment Fund. The income from the Wyatt Fund will be used to fund special needs of the high school's basketball and tennis programs, which will ensure that the Wyatt name will be involved in the on-going support of these two programs in which Dick had a devoted interest.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS:

An endowment is a fund that is created so it will be self-sustaining. That money is invested and the principle remains untouched. The interest or dividends earned on the principle are used to pay for various school programs and activities. When additional donations are made, they grow the principle and in turn grow the program funding.

Support of reading programs and initiatives has been one of the primary efforts of the A+ Foundation. Through an opportunity created by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley's Challenge Grant, the A+ Foundation elected to create the Endowed Reading Fund to support reading initiatives in the elementary schools. Donors are encouraged to create endowed funds whose income will fund educational programs that are of special interest to them.

ANNUAL GIFTS:

These gifts are donations of varying amounts from families, businesses, and alumni that are received year to year. Frequently these gifts are given through Fund-A-Need to support a specifically defined program. Contributions large and small have made it possible to offer special activities in all our schools.

\$5, \$10 and \$25 gifts are of significant importance in creating the annual funding base of our Fund-A-Need program. Many of the Fund-A-Need grants reported on pages 5, 6 and 7 of this report that were funded by the A+ Foundation were made possible by annual gifts made by our supportive donors.

"As I finish my 23rd year in education, I can honestly say that I've not encountered a more effective or supportive school-focused organization than the A+ Foundation. Whether it be supporting our Excellence in Education Banquet, recognizing our teaching staff, honoring our distinguished Alumni, or simply supporting teachers through funding for innovative instructional tools and methods, A+ has been there for us. The Foundation is entirely committed to our students and our staff, and without its support we would be a much poorer place. The staff and students of West Aurora High School truly appreciate all that the A+ Foundation does for us, and hope we will be able to justify its support through academic excellence, community service, and overall Blackhawk Pride!"

Dr. Charles G. Hiscock, Ed.D

PRINCIPAL
WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL

GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT:

This gift can come in the form of volunteering in the schools , committing to mentoring an individual or classroom, or providing A+ programs with talents unique to the donor. Time and Talent commitments may involve a number of contacts with our students or a yearly commitment to specific events .

The A+ Foundation Board, incoming Hall of Honor inductees, and guests were joined by seven distinguished members of the A+ Hall of Honor at this year's Hall of Honor events. The returning honorees spoke to students and staff during the West High day and participated in the Legacy of Lights dinner.

Ed Ochenschlager (2008), Martha Sloan (2013), and Bill Habermeyer (2011) visited classes and joined the 2015 inductees for the high school day. They joined Scott Jordan (2012), Mike Oros (2013), and Bob Taggart (2006) at the Legacy of Lights Induction dinner. Bill Gifford spoke to the importance of the Hall of Honor. Mike introduced Linda Cowan's accomplishments and Scott told of Rodger Piolet's achievements.

These Hall of Honor members continue to make an impact on District 129 – students and community. It is because of these individuals' continued involvement that the A+ Foundation and the Hall of Honor shine brighter each year.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP:

These gifts are donations by area businesses, big and small, which help fund A+ programs. These gifts are targeted to specific events or their distribution is left to the discretion of the A+ Board.

Our two 'flagship' events, Excellence in Education and Hall of Honor, are made possible by Corporate Sponsorship. Details of these events are reported on pages 3, 4 and 11 and our sponsors are listed on page 8. These two student based events would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. We say thank you to them.



"The A+ Foundation works tirelessly to provide financial and volunteer support for the schools of District 129. As an administrator in the district, I have always been able to count on the A+ Foundation to support our programs, staff and students. We are fortunate to have a foundation at West Aurora that is committed to the students of this district."

Whitney Martino
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
WEST HIGH SCHOOL

A+ Applauds Student Artists at District Fine Arts Festival

A+ supports the joy of the arts and the artist through the District 129 All School Fine Arts Fest. Every March, the students in the District celebrate their creativity and share their talents with teachers, parents, administrators, and community members in this all day event. Vocal and instrumental musicians perform throughout the high school in multiple venues, and visual art work is displayed in all the hallways, the cafeteria, and the auditorium. For that one day, West becomes a panoply of color, light, sound, and the accompanying swell of voices enjoying it all.

This year, volunteer committees comprised of A+ Foundation Board members awarded three elementary school, three middle school, and three high school visual artists with Best of Show ribbons. The elementary students also received *Edward Hopper Paints the World*, illustrated by Wendell Minor, an A+ Hall of Honor member, and middle school/high school students received *Warm Light, Cool Shadows* by Nancy Smith Hopp, another talented graduate of West High. The judging panels were treated to drawings, paintings, photography, sculptures, jewelry, and multimedia artworks making the selection both awe-inspiring and difficult.

A+ applauds and congratulates all the artists who participated in the event! The event underscores yet another reason why West is Best!

RICHARD DORSEY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS



TAYLOR PODSCHWEIT



TOMMY KOTH

Richard Dorsey, the West High basketball coach for a number of very successful years, was a role-model for sportsmanship. The Richard Dorsey Sportsmanship Awards were established in his honor and memory. This year Taylor Podschweit and Tommy Koth were the recipients of the Richard Dorsey Sportsmanship Awards. Taylor, who earned excellent grades in the classroom, is the two-time captain of the softball team. She was always modest in victory, classy in defeat, and a great mentor and role model to younger players. She plans on attending the University of Indianapolis in the fall. Tommy, a three year varsity basketball player and starter, was a model of consistency that practiced, played and studied with great determination. He is a classy young man of high character that was always a great representative of West High. He plans on attending North Central College.

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The following list reflects donations made during calendar year 2014. Thank you to again to all our contributors for their support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools!

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* Recipient received multiple recognitions throughout the school year.


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Fund Your Classroom Projects



The Dunham Fund will provide matching funds to DonorsChoose.org requests that support the 69 local public schools that fall within the Dunham Fund service area. See dunhamfund.org/DonorsChoose for local school listings.

Here's what to do:

1. Register at www.DonorsChoose.org/teachers.
2. Post a request for materials.
3. Projects must have a total cost of \$2,000 or less to qualify for the offer.
4. The Dunham Fund will help fund one project per teacher.
5. Once your project is posted, you should see the half-off logo appear within a week.

Questions?
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