

southwest FOUNDATION news

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“First Friday” Event Celebrates Entire School Community



In preparation for all students returning to in-person learning, a group of dedicated staff began planning the annual “First Friday” event back in the spring. Credit COVID protocols or the desire to do something grander, but this year the typical indoor lunch time event reached new heights! From the Army climbing wall and obstacle course, staff dunk tank or carnival games that lined a closed-off street, the moved outdoor event was a hit!

At its core the day featured 48 student clubs, activities and sports teams as they recruited new members. Whether interested in joining the Film Club, Green Team, *Siren* Literary Magazine, Muslim Student Association or Debate Team, student representatives were all smiles talking about their activities, collecting email addresses and inviting their peers to play their games.

The day also served as an overdue in-person celebration. “The entire school community coming together was extremely powerful and the fun had was both needed and therapeutic for both students and staff,” said planning



Special Education students and staff enjoy First Friday on Sept 17, 2021.

committee member and Social Studies Teacher Sean Keir. Principal Butler had been speaking for over a year that when all students returned in-person, something truly special was needed. Even neighbors joined the fun, coming to talk to students and staff.

“Simply the best!”

Organizers say they didn’t hear a single negative response, as ASL Teacher Jodi Marker-Perelman’s students called the day, “Simply the best!” “Seeing that many students stay at an event where they could have simply went home was awesome and validated the process for those who were involved in the planning and implementation of the day,” added Keir.

From the band blaring the school song to kick-off the event, the free BBQ lunch, and the enormous diverse representation of the school on full display, it was a day like none other. Plans for next year are already underway to make this tradition bigger and better.



The pep band performs at First Friday.

Athletic Hall of Fame 2021 Inductees



- Edi Becera, Soccer, 2010
- Edmund Gould, Tennis, 1948
- Bob Newman, CC, Track, 1960
- Allison Richards, Basketball, Soccer, 2000
- Linn Schulte-Sasse, CC, Track, 1995
- Ayrton Scott, Football, 2010
- Brad Shelstad, Hockey, 1970
- Doug Boe, (Coach), Basketball, 1972
- Bob Fine, (Booster), 1967
- 1975 Hockey Team

The inductees were honored at an award breakfast and ceremony at Southwest on Sept 25. Nominations of candidates for induction can be made at swshhof.com.

From Our Chair



Adam Barrett, '00

I write this with equal parts passion, frustration and hesitation; it's probably against the rules for any fund-raising appeal. But, I am not a professional fundraiser. I am an alum and a volunteer who understands the depth of impact that the International Baccalaureate Program and our teachers may have on a young life; I was once that young person.

In my own experience, I never felt like school was meant for me. I was an outcast, and despite my smiling appearance, was very conflicted by a sense of purpose. Freshman and Sophomore year at Southwest were not easy for me. Junior year however, I had one teacher who opened my eyes to possibility, purpose and belonging. From there, I began my journey...

Southwest and IB won't make life easy or graduate geniuses by the tenfold. Wisdom and abilities to navigate our complex systems comes with time, failures and the twisting and winding road of life. What we can do through International Baccalaureate however, is plant the seeds for lifelong learning. What we can do through our teachers and staff, is lead with empathy as no one is able to control a life or what happens outside the school's walls. What we can do as a community is provide students with as much opportunity so they have a reason to want to come to school.

The tenets of IB bread equitable principles in our students and the teachers who teach the program.

The advanced testing and tutoring that we help fund for the most underserved in our

community is to eliminate financial barriers on those who can't afford it.

The extracurriculars and clubs that we invest in are often designed by students and led by staff during off hours, because they mirror each other's passion. These often give students that reason to want to be in class.

Grants to women's athletics are designed to give a chance to young women who only a couple decades ago, were limited to a small percentage of what men had access to.

These are only a few examples of what we collectively do in coordination with our administration and school leaders to make the high school experience what it should be. The Southwest model works, but it took a very long time to build.

The frustration stems from some community members lacking an understanding of what the school was like when I graduated. It was amazing for a select few of us but extracurricular programming was barely a fraction of what it is now and IB was set aside for those who could test-in.

A foundation that offered college scholarships was a thought that only came into reality about 10 years later.

As the community evaluates equitable giving of foundations, I encourage you to look at the documentation we provide on our website which shows the progress we have made and how our organization works.

I am also frustrated because I miss my school. As the pandemic set-on, I believe a disconnect grew for many of us, in many ways. It is my hope that as the wheels roll again, we have the opportunity to meet, hug and discuss how our community may improve and I look forward to meeting many of those reading this, soon.

Southwest is an incredible institution and our community needs your support.

and socialized, enjoyed snacks and beverages, bought raffle tickets, and then hit the links. The option returned to purchase \$5 mul-ligans which supports the Southwest Girls Basketball Team, and on-course competitions included longest drives, closest to the hole, longest putt and an overall team competition. Once the golf concluded everyone enjoyed dinner from the delicious Run Tell That BBQ food truck.

It was a rainy September morning that threatened to wash out some golfers, but the skies cleared right as they began to play and all the alumni, parents and supporters of Southwest had a wonderful time.

Attendees commented how great it was to gather in person to see old friends, and meet new ones. This year 86 players hit the fairway and raised \$3,200. A very special thank you to all the local businesses and individuals that donated auction items, or sponsored a hole. All of the proceeds raised goes to support the Southwest Athletic Scholarship Fund.

If you missed this year's tournament but wish to contribute to the Athletic Scholarship fund, donations can be made at SouthwestFoundation.org.

Homecon

Photos by Anniq London & Mike Ries



Foundation Golf Tournament Is Back



Board Members Dan Froehlich & Gwen Spurgat check in players at the annual Golf Tournament at Meadowbrook Golf Course on Sept 24, 2021.

The 11th annual Southwest Foundation Golf Tournament was back after taking a year off due to COVID.

Taking place at the nearby picturesque Meadowbrook Golf Course, teams gathered

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Spring 2021



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SWF Grant for BIPOC Composed Music

When thinking of the funding needs of an instrumental music program, the exuberant costs of instruments is a given. What is not so obvious though, is the sheet music that keeps those instruments from ringing silent.

For far too long this sheet music at Southwest has been limited in its diversity. “Our music library started at 99% white male composers when I began working here eight years ago,” says Director of Instrumental Music Reid Wixson. In an attempt to decenter this whiteness, Wixson applied for a Southwest Foundation Grant to purchase new music from BIPOC and female composers, as part of the annual grant process. “Printed music is a large expense - each piece roughly costs \$90.00. Therefore, we can make a small impact each year with respects

“Our school is leading the way on the initiative to purposefully include more BIPOC voices in the composers we feature.”

to balancing the library and that is what I am committed to doing,” he adds. The \$450.00 Grant received unanimous Board support and was fully funded. The budget for any new music purchased comes from donations and concert ticket sales. With no concerts last school year, there was no budget for



The band performs new music at the fall concert on Oct 14 in the SW courtyard.

music. With the granted money, Wixson was able to purchase new music for each of Southwest’s ensembles.

The new music was performed as part of the fall outdoor music concert. “Students really appreciated the diversity of repertoire in the concert and so did the audience,” says Wixson.

When asked how Southwest compares to other schools and programs in diversifying an outdated music library Wixson says, “Our school is leading the way on the initiative to purposefully include more BIPOC voices in the composers that we feature in our concerts.” He adds, “In addition to ensuring that our curriculum, our concert repertoire, is reflective of the wealth of diversity of musical styles and genres, we need to also ensure that students are learning the socio-cultural context of composers and their music. By focusing on the genesis of a piece or the reason why a composer wrote the way they did, students can begin to see music as a means for communicating and not just a series of fun notes to play and listen to.”

If you’d like to help fund more BIPOC composed music, you can make a donation at SouthwestFoundation.org and note “BIPOC music” in the payment.

AVID Day Returns



AVID students at Lake Harriet for AVID Day.

After 18 months in distance learning Southwest AVID (Advancement Through Individual Determination) was able to hold the annual AVID Day at Lake Harriet. Working with Project Success, AVID students and teachers from grades 9-12 gather for a day of community building and inspiration. One element of AVID Day is the opportunity for seniors to plan and lead the younger stu-

dents. “I felt like it was great for seniors to show how we could lead younger students to form bonds and learn. Project Success helped us prepare for the day and gave us tricks and tips to be better leaders,” said Zack Essa, an AVID senior.

The AVID program seeks to close opportunity gaps for first generation students. An important element is the positive collaborative peer network of students, and the AVID Day provides an opportunity early in the year for students to connect with one another across grades. Nimo Nagad Abdualhi, an AVID senior said, “We were in distance learning for 18 months, so it was great seeing all the AVID students get together and build relationships with each other.”

The Southwest Foundation has been a sponsor of the AVID Day for a number of years now, and we wish to thank the Foundation and all its supporters.

~AVID Coordinator, Caroline Hooper

Alumni Corner

Chuck Aoki ('09) helped lead Team USA to a silver medal in the Rugby Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Sage Coy ('14) is currently performing with the prestigious Portland Cello Project!

Samantha Gagnon ('13) placed first in the American Bar Association’s annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest.

Brothers Alex Rogers ('04) & Jeff Rogers ('07), expand their remarkably tasty Wrecktangle Pizza with a location at Lake & Lyndale.

To share an alumni update, please email us at info@SouthwestFoundation.org.

Southwest KUDOS

2022 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Seniors **Luke Legrand, Peter Lindholm, Roxanne Riebel & Peregrine Todd.**

SW Choir, Guitar, Orchestra & Band students and faculty for an incredible night of music at the Oct 14 outdoor concert at SW.

The Southwest **Robotics Team** who won 1st place in the Mechanical Design, and Sweepstakes Awards, at the Minnesota State Fair.

Cross Country Sophomore **Sam Scott** who was nominated as the National Boys Performer Of The Week.

Seniors **Peter Linholm, Gracia Zachman & Ian Lee** who made the All-National Guitar Orchestra for the second consecutive year.

Senior **Ella Wise** who was named All-State in Girls Soccer.

SW Staff **Adan Ali** and **Lisa Ledman** for their appointments as Assistant Principals.

Seniors **Preston Engen, Brayden Engrav, and Charlie Boucher** who were all named to the 2021 PrepRedzone Preseason All-State Class 5A teams. **Boucher** was also named to the 2021 KARE Preseason All-Metro Team.

Athletic Update

Boys' Varsity Soccer 6AAA Champions!

What an amazing season for the Laker Boys' Varsity Soccer Team! With a record of 14-0-2 (only a handful of SW teams to do so), the unbeaten Lakers won the City Championship and ended the season ranked #5 in the state.

In the Section 6AAA Championship in front of a massive crowd, the Lakers beat their archrival in an incredibly competitive and thrilling double overtime victory. From the corner, senior Abdiwassa Musse sent a beautiful ball into the middle where junior Rees Bonnabeau perfectly headed it over the outstretched hands of the leaping Washburn

keeper. Lakers win 2-1! "We're going to State!" echoed throughout the neighborhood.

Head coach Jamie Plaisance, a SW alumnus, has coached the Lakers since 2003. The Lakers have not been to the State Tournament since 2013. Coach Plaisance, with assistant coach Eric Feil, call this a very special team led by an impressive group of seniors, but he particularly notes the strong leadership of captains Charlie Smith II, Isaac Fox and Liam Towne. The rest of the seniors include Musse, Amin Abdi, Carlos Segoiva, Cy Gleason, Ian Sheridan and Ollie Damm.

At the State Tournament Banquet, the entire team was recognized, and Towne and Gleason were named to First Team and Second Team All-State, respectively. A shout out to a nearly impenetrable defensive unit that



allowed eight goals the entire season, led by the incredible goalkeeping of Drew Pitts, Cole Parker, Pitts, Eli Caguin, Everett Arden, Malcolm Munnich, Landon McLean, Matt Peterson, Matthew Ellis, Paolo Guarin and Bonnabeau round out the team. Additional key members include student managers Leo Cavallitti and Dante Devoto. Special thank you to Aidan McGuinn, our enthusiastic and dedicated game announcer.

Through the entirety of the State Quarterfinals the Lakers dominated in every metric, shots on goal, ball control, offensively and defensively, only to suffer a heartbreaking loss to Rochester Mayo in a 3-4 shootout in double overtime, losing 0-1.

Thank you to all the fans who cheered loudly for each game and all the parent volunteers who worked tirelessly all season. Go Lakers!

~Robert Hollway (Athletic Director) & Charlie Smith (Booster President). Follow us on Twitter @MplsSouthwest for Southwest Athletics updates!



A Robotics Reboot

On October 16th we attended the Minnesota Robotics Invitational at Roseville High School, placing sixth overall and becoming an alliance captain! We won our first match in the semifinals but missed the finals. All the data and information gathered on other teams will go to a database of robots we have competed with. This can be used for our next competition in November.



The Robotics Team gear up for competition.

During Distance Learning we lost many members and we weren't able to recruit new members. This year though, we gained lots of ninth and tenth graders who just finished tool training. In preparation for the build season, over the next nine weeks we are making a t-shirt cannon. We will create a full drive base and will be mimicking the process of designing and building a robot that we will use in January. So far we have a preliminary design and are going more in-depth about the process of making CAD models for a robot.

The Minneapolis Urban Robotics Alliance recently became a non-profit! Southwest's lead mentor, Tim Dirr, is the President and operations lead for a new aluminum practice field, purchased with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Ultraviolet is looking for more mentors. If you live in the area and want to teach students about STEM, please reach out to us!

~Elsa Anderson, Junior, Robotics Team



The Southwest Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to work with Southwest High School and its alumni to create an exceptional educational experience for all students. The Foundation raises money to support academic, athletic and artistic opportunities for students and to provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

There are many opportunities to become involved with and support the Southwest Foundation. We are currently seeking volunteers, additional board members and a new Treasurer. To learn more or to donate, visit SouthwestFoundation.org.

2021-2022 Board Members

- Adam Barrett '00, Chair
- Una Edwardson, current parent
- Dan Froehlich '75, Dir. of Alumni Engagement, staff and graduate parent
- Bradley Idelkope, '03
- Allison Krueger, current parent
- Dave Premack '04, Communications
- Paul Roach '88, Treasurer
- Gwen Spurgat, current parent

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