

southwest FOUNDATION news

Calling all alumni!

Do you have a reunion planned this school year or next summer? The Southwest Foundation strives to provide alumni with up-to-date information on reunions, class events and class news. Please visit Southwest-Foundation.org to find and share information about your class.

Lakers Take Homecoming Spirit on Tour

Homecoming week has historically been a time to celebrate school spirit and welcome back proud alumni with traditions like the parade and football game. This fall, the week-long festivities also included activities aimed at those who are not even Lakers themselves.

Nearly 100 band members and cheerleaders with instruments and pom poms in tow, loaded buses (funded by the Foundation) to tour all the Southwest feeder schools — Anthony Middle School, and Armatage, Kenny, Lake Harriet Upper and Lower, and Windom elementary schools — to spread Laker pride!

When the sea of purple and white arrived at each school, Band Director Reid Wixson stated, “It was so exciting. Students clapped along, parents were coming out from the surrounding homes, daycare kids came over and teachers were enthusiastic about it as well!” Lake Harriet Second Grade Teacher Debi Mattson proudly proclaimed that to her class, high schoolers are “rockstars!”

The students played several songs and the cheerleaders performed routines.



SW Cheerleader & Band students spread Laker spirit at Lake Harriet School on Oct 11, 2022. The new school spirit tour stopped at all six Southwest feeder schools.

The stop at Windom was especially meaningful as it was not traditionally a Southwest-feeder school. “We wanted to work extra hard to ensure that those families and faculty feel extra welcomed into the Laker community.” Wixson said.

Southwest students really enjoyed the new Homecoming tradition too, getting to visit with many of their former teachers and younger siblings, who gleefully pointed out their performing older siblings.

The day would not have been possible without the financial support of the Southwest Foundation. The leaders also wish to thank each school for the collaboration, and are looking forward to continuing the exchange.

When asked what the goal of the day was Wixson said, “Ensure that each student felt included in the Southwest community — we want each student to grow up through our system thinking of themselves as Lakers.” Asked if the goal was met, he proudly proclaimed, “I think so!”

Meet ‘Papa Laker’



For those of you I have yet to meet, my name is Dr. Éd Bennett, (nicknamed ‘Papa Laker’), and I’m the new principal at Southwest High School. My tenure began on July 1, and I have enjoyed a very warm welcome to the Southwest community from staff, students, and families. My deepest thanks to all of you for all you have done to make me feel a part of the Southwest community. After spending many weeks during

the summer gathering feedback from school stakeholders, I have been working hard with our admin team and faculty with one goal in mind: to make Southwest High School the standard of excellence in MPS. Our initial efforts have focused on improving communication, tightening school procedures and routines to enhance school safety, and supporting teachers as they provide rigorous and relevant lessons each day. Please know those efforts will continue in earnest throughout this year and beyond, and we are so appreciative of the positive feedback we’ve received so far. We are also deeply thankful for the support provided by the Southwest Foundation, which allows us to enhance the world class education provided at Southwest with additional resources and opportunities for all students. Your generosity means the world.

Thank you for all of your kindness and support. I look forward to meeting more members of the Laker family in the days ahead.

~Dr. Bennett

give TO THE **MAX** NOV. 17, 2022

Did you miss Give to the Max Day?

You can still contribute to our fundraising push to provide needed bus transportation for all Southwest field trips this year. See page 2 to view the amazing offsite academic & enrichment opportunities our staff are planning.

'22-'23 Grant Requests

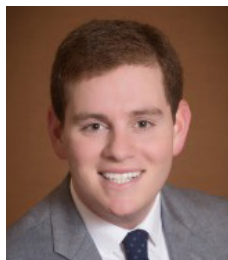
Each year the Southwest Foundation provides grants to support student groups, staff, and administration requests that receive no district funding and would otherwise go un-funded. This year's requests, which total over \$90,000, exceed current fundraising. To ensure all of these worthy requests are fully funded, please consider donating today.

- Developmental Cognitive Disabilities Literacy & Math curriculum
- Support for the IB programme and student testing scholarships
- Food and personal hygiene products for students in need
- Book purchases for a Free Voluntary Reading Library for Spanish students.
- Math Team Competition & preparation costs
- Support of the annual ASL night
- Software used for Southwest Navigator student newspaper
- Printing costs of Southwest Siren Arts Magazine
- Students of Color support group guest speakers
- Purchasing yearbooks for students from low-income households
- New Athletic signage for West gym & stadium
- Good Morning welcome Initiative for students
- Films for the Francophone cinema class
- Specialized art supplies for Studio Art Club
- Buses for the Homecoming Band and Cheer Tour to feeder schools
- Mentorship exchanges for the DJ club
- French National Honor Society graduation chords
- Classroom set of books for students with reading levels significantly below grade level.
- Portable speaker system to support PE classes
- DeltaMath subscription to create individual lessons and module sets for credit recovery
- Culturally Diverse speaker for Business class
- High interest Books for English classroom library from diverse & underrepresented authors
- GSA Club activities
- Anchor Program partnership with Linden Hills Co-op for students to develop and improve their functional communication skills, self-help, life skills, and other related skills within the context of cooking
- Tutoring support
- Senior Class Party student scholarships & costs
- Support for PTSA initiatives and programs
- Graduation costs
- New materials for Student Reflection room
- Food costs for Mindful Nutrition class
- Support for summer Community Theatre show
- New AED's & CPR mannequins for Health Dept

Transportation for field trips:

- AVID & Multilingual student college tours
- English/Philosophy classes at The Watt Munisotaram Buddhist temples
- ASL play at MN State Academy for the Deaf
- International Club visits
- French Club visit to MIA
- Visit Feed My Starving Children for IB Career Program students
- Math class students presenting their research and analysis of pollutions locally in air, water and soil to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
- Mindful Nutrition tour of district Nutrition Center
- Philosophy students to the Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Shakopee
- IB HL Asia and Africa class to MIA

From the Chair



Brad Idelkope, '03

Dear Friends,

It's November and I would like to get a jump on my Thanksgiving traditions. In that vein, I want to say I am truly thankful for your continued support of Southwest High School and its

students. The school year is off to a fabulous start and the Foundation is finalizing the Fall grant process.

This round, we received a great set of requests from our student groups, teachers, and administrators that directly align with our mission statement and emphasize how the Southwest students are going to be improving their surroundings, both inside the walls of the school and in the community. Specifically, we are thrilled to fund various field trips including transportation, the Athletic Department's various needs, and

improving the resources of our international offerings. None of this would be possible without the financial support the Foundation receives from you. Thank you.

Additionally, I am looking forward to continuing to work with the Southwest administration to explore how we can improve the school and the experience. This administration is the type of driven, self-less, practical leadership that only helps serve the kids and the community. I want to commend them on the extra effort they have put in to hit-the-ground-running this school year. It shows.

Finally, thanks go out to my co-Board members and the other Southwest affiliated groups. Already this year we have had a series of great events, from hosting parents of all grades, to a stellar golf event at Meadowbrook, and also helping the Southwest Athletic Hall of Fame continue their tradition of excellence inducting new members to their ranks. A warm "Thank You" to my colleagues.

Please keep your eyes out for what we have in store for the rest of the year. I'm sure we will have even more to be grateful for.

Yours truly, Brad Idelkope

SW Staff School Year Kick-Off

After what was the shortest summer ever for Southwest Staff, the Southwest Foundation hosted a party welcoming all staff to the new school year. The teachers strike, COVID and distance learning highlighted the significance of educators, (Southwest is lucky to have the best teachers and staff in the world), and The Foundation wanted to celebrate that. During Workshop week Board member and staff member Dave Premack opened his yard to help kick-off the 2022-2023 school year. The Foundation provided food from Nicos Tacos,

Drinks, Prizes and live music. Funding was possible from the Dr. Betsee Parker grant. All the staff appreciated the welcome back party and were excited to hear this will become an annual event.



The Hot Lemons, featuring Southwest retiree teacher and coach Paul Porter, perform at the Back-to-School Staff Kick-off on Sept. 1, 2022.

'72 Alumni Tour



The class of 1972 explore the new commons.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Southwest class of 1972. As part of the reunion weekend activities, about 80 alumni took a tour of their old school.

For many, there was so much "new" they became turned around, never-the-less they enjoyed it. Former athletes became nostalgic finding their championship trophies, return-

ing to the gym and seeing the new training facility. Past music students were gleeful reentering the choir and band rooms. Mark Bruner, in from Czechoslovakia, "borrowed" a trumpet and played the Rouser which was a highlight for many. Others were shocked that the same soundproofing wall tiles they used back then remain today, and that Old Majstro Don Stoyke's office was like a snapshot in history.

One alumni shared, "It was interesting hearing the emotions and comments of how much it meant to many to have walked halls that they hadn't thought of for 50 years — it was impactful and moving to many that were there." And another stated, "Some things are so deep in your bones, and its good to get such resonance that vibrates to the core of the soul. Both from the building — but even more-so from the people with us — sharing the experience of time travel!"

Alumni tours are always available. Contact info@southwestfoundation.org to schedule yours.

Golf Tournament & Athletic Hall of Fame

This fall the Southwest Foundation's annual golf tournament was back in full force. On Sept. 16 the Foundation hosted over 90 alumni, parents and friends to play golf at Meadowbrook, and enjoy a BBQ dinner, raffle and auction. A new blackjack game was



Players at Meadowbrook Golf Course relax after 18 holes raising money for Southwest.

added on one of the par 3's and some great jersey's from one of our devoted alumni were auctioned off. It was an extremely successful event that preceded the Hall of Fame induction ceremony the next day. If you are interested in getting information about next year, email info@southwestfoundation.org.

The Southwest Athletic Hall of Fame (SWAHOF) held its annual induction celebration Sept. 17, 2022 in the Commons and Auditorium, recognizing the following individuals:

Athletes

Pete Wareham, 1981
 Greg Kapitan, 1967
 Dick Meredith, 1951
 Tate Pashibin, 2012
 Chris Long Brunkhorst 1979
 Syverson Family- Abby, 2006; Alex, 2007;
 Britta, 2009

Coach

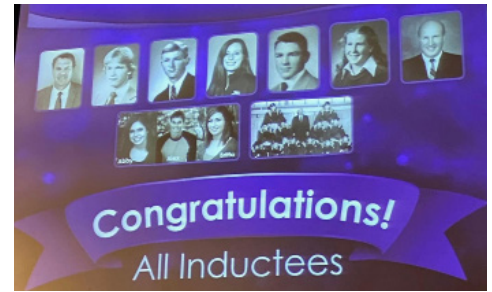
Dan Froehlich, 1975

Booster

Len Neiman

Team

The 1969 SW Wrestling Team



A slide of the 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame class at the induction ceremony on Sept. 17, 2022.

Congratulations to these accomplished athletes! Information about each inductee, inductees from prior years, and information on how to nominate future candidates, can be found at www.swhshof.com. The SWAHOF committee is also looking for new members, especially alumni who have graduated from 2000 onward, as well as current or recent coaches. The committee meets twice a year and votes on each year's nominations. If interested, email swhshof@gmail.com.

Hard to Say Goodbye

It is no secret that Southwest has the best staff, which is why it is with mixed emotions we have bid farewell to a group of educators unparalleled in devotion to teaching students.



Cecily Spano joined the Southwest Arts faculty in 1995 and her classroom was a sanctuary since day one. She mentored budding artists and organized countless art shows, exchanges and trips. Longtime colleague and friend Colleen Callahan shares, "She was beloved. The whole school was anchored by her. Knowing she was there with her artistic, emotional and physical sustenance grounded all students and teachers. A priceless teacher and human." Cecily now teaches at Roosevelt High School.



Linnea Hempel de Valdez has taken her positive persona to Pillsbury elementary and Folwell Middle School due to current enrollment shifts. In her 24 years at Southwest, she has been an ELL teacher, Department Head, Leadership Council Chair, Newspaper Advisor and Principal Search Committee member. Whatever the role, Linnea freely shared her prodigious talents to spearhead, mentor, lead, problem-solve, coach, even agitate, all for one purpose: to advocate with and for multilingual students, their families, and their teachers.



Megan Marsnik has been teaching since 1992. Often referred to as "legendary" by colleagues, the award-winning published author and poet, who has been known to read an entire novel in one sitting, has retired. Colleague, lunch buddy and friend Teresa Rumppe says, "She elevated the art of teaching and made us all better."



Lisa Ledman began teaching math in 1991 and spent 17 years at Southwest. She held many roles including instructional facilitator, IB coordinator and most recently, assistant principal. Her knowledge of all things Southwest was invaluable with many leadership changes and she ensured that no matter the obstacle, that students always remained the priority.



Patty Dockendorf spent nearly 15 years at Southwest as a Special Education teacher. Colleague Katie Dzien shares, "Patty was always willing to help and was very devoted to her students. There was no challenge Patty wasn't up for taking care of. She was a team player who always made you smile or laugh during the times you didn't want to. She was an amazing educator that gave her all for students."



Casey Briskin shared her love of literature and performance as an English teacher at Southwest for 29 years. At her retirement party (that she demanded feature a dance party), she shared, "For teachers, whether we stand at the beginning or at the end of our career, the point of it all and the purpose seem to me the same: to make a difference in a young person's life and to make the world a better place. How do we do this? By teaching what we love and living what we teach." Casey did this each and every day at Southwest.

From the Art, Academics, Multilingual, Special Education and Administration areas of the school, these six incredible staff were anchors in their departments, mentors to countless students and staff, and were regular recipients of Foundation grants for their classes. With over 125 years of combined tenure, they leave an inspiring and untouchable legacy, and are missed each and every day.

Math Team Coach McMayer Honored

Many high school headlines will focus on a school's athletes, but at Southwest we are lucky to have some of the best *Mathletes* in the state. And with a championship team comes a championship coach, David McMayer.



Much of Southwest's continued dominance at regional and statewide competitions is credit to McMayer. He has coached Southwest to 16 division titles in 16 years. We knew of this Allstar within our halls, and now the entire state does as well since he was inducted into the MN State High School Math League Hall of Fame this August.

McMayer joins an elite group as there are less than 50 coaches and alumni in the Hall of Fame. He received the honor in recognition of his efforts statewide to get more students involved with competition mathematics, to intentionally increase participation of underrepresented populations, and the longstanding success of the Math Team at Southwest.

About coaching he equates, "League activities have been central to who I am as a math teacher. The opportunities through competitions provided to my students and to me as a coach have impacted lives in so many ways."

In 1985, Southwest became one of just four schools in the state to field a team. In the early years of the league, Southwest's team was led by Dr. Ed Anderson, a longtime teacher and legend in MPS, the state, and the nation. With this latest recognition, McMayer is on his way to being a legend in his own right.

The Southwest Foundation proudly supports the Math Team, and you can too by donating today.

Southwest KUDOS

100+ SW students who served as polling location election judges.

Junior **Megan Schoenke** was featured on KARE 11 as a Varsity Girls Soccer Player and Kicker for the football team.

Junior **Reese Joshi** was selected to play with the St. Olaf College High School Honor Band.

211 seniors submitted early November 1 college applications, applying to 373 colleges, including community, technical, state, international, Ivy League and military academies.

11th grade English teacher **Ali Vujovich** wrote 61 college recommendation letters followed closely by her colleague **Tom Johnson** who wrote 48. They led the staff in this tally.

SW students who volunteered at the Southwest Community Education Family Halloween Party, setting up and running carnival games.

SW Jazz combos performed at KJ's Hideaway in St. Paul on Oct. 1.

The 29 floats representing teams, clubs and activities from the entire school that created the Largest Homecoming Parade ever.

World Premiere of Nathaniel Dett's "In the Bottoms Suite" arranged for string orchestra by Jazzie Pigott performed by the **SW Chamber Orchestra** this fall.

Junior **Piper Klaus** who was nominated for player of the week on MN Volleyball Hub.

First Friday for Student Clubs

The annual 'First Friday' returned Sept. 16. The event shuts down the street in front of the building and the afternoon features a BBQ for the entire student body (funded by the Foundation) and a dunk tank and obstacle course. But the main function of the day is to highlight the 50+ student clubs as they offer carnival games to woo students to their booth as they recruit new members.

Student clubs are completely self sufficient and do not receive district funding. Many rely

on fundraising or grants from the Southwest Foundation available each fall. If you wish to make a donation to propel any of these amazing student-led groups, you can do so at SouthwestFoundation.org.



Makia Conway and Trygve Thorson recruit for the Youth in Government Club at First Friday.

Did you know all these student clubs exist at Southwest? Support our students with a donation today!

- 612MTB Mountain Bike Team Activists for Change Alateen Art Club ASL Club
 Asian Student Association Black Student Union Book Club Chess Club Climbing Club Debate
 DJ Club Dodge Ball Club eSports Fashion Club French Club Film Club Gender Justice
 Girls Who Code Club Green Team GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) History Club
 International Club Japanese Culture Club Jewish Student Union LatinX Club Link Crew
 Math Team Marching Band Mock Trial Model UN Muslim Student Association
 National Honor Society Nature Club Navigator (school newspaper) Peoples History
 Ping Pong Club Quiz Bowl Red Cross Club Robotics Sailboat Racing Service Club
 Siren (SW Arts Review) Social Justice Book Club Songwriting Club Spanish Club Speech
 Spike ball club Student Council Unified Club Teens Against Crime Theater Club
 Ultimate Frisbee Unified Club Yearbook Youth in Government Young Participatory Evaluation

Athletic Update

Southwest High School has hired a new Athletic Director, Jared Mountain. He is new to the position but not new to Southwest as he had been the Head Baseball Coach for the last 26 years. Jared has also worked in the district as a Teacher, Dean of Students and Area Learning Center Coordinator for several schools, including six here at Southwest.

Southwest Fall Athletics had 470 registered athletes (over 30% of the student body) playing on 27 different teams. Girls Soccer, Volleyball,



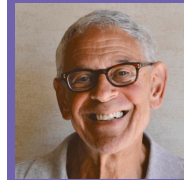
Cross Country State Qualifiers Sam Scott, Anatalya Graham, Nate Meyer & Ben Batalden.

Cross Country and Boys Cross Country all won 2022 Fall City Conference Championships. **Anatalya Graham** qualified for the State Girls Cross Country Meet, and **Ben Batalden, Nate Meyer** and **Sam Scott** all qualified for the State Boys Cross Country Meet. Scott placed first overall in the Region 6AAA Championship Meet and took second at State. The Volleyball team played in the Section 6AAAA Finals for the first time since 2010. In Girl's Swimming & Diving, **Ella Kowalczyk** and **Erin Prekker** advanced to the State competition. Congratulations to all of our teams and individuals this year and Go Lakers!



Girls Volleyball claimed the City Championship!

Remembering Harvey Feldman



Harvey graduated from Southwest High School in 1961 and attended the University of Minnesota where he earned a BA in Accounting. Harvey had 3 loves: Southwest High School, sports and the stock market. Harvey was a generous philanthropist: He lit up the Southwest football field with lights, cooled the auditorium with air conditioning, sponsored the ACT program and put a new sound system and LED lighting in the gym. He also had 30 kids on scholarship for the most improved high school athlete. Harvey had a passion for the important mission of the city schools to educate the diverse community of Minneapolis. In a 2016 Southwest Foundation newsletter he shared, "I want to provide [opportunity] for the many kids from all incomes and all backgrounds. I want these kids to have a very special experience... because, like me, they will carry forward and be more successful for it." The entire Southwest community is more successful because of Harvey's generosity, and we will miss our number one fan dearly!



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, committee members and board members. To learn more or to donate, visit SouthwestFoundation.org.

Current Board Members

- Dan Froehlich '75, Dir. of Alumni Engagement, Coach and graduate parent
- Brad Idelkope, '03, Chair
- Maria Kimmes, Faculty
- Allison Krueger, Parent
- Jodi Marker-Perelman, '87, Faculty
- Jackie Noble, Parent
- Dave Premack '04, Communications
- Paul Roach '88, Treasurer
- Ann Smith, Parent
- Gwen Spurgat, Parent

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