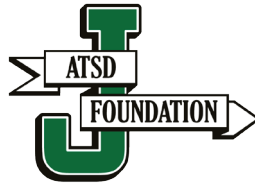


Adams Township School District Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2016

*A Heritage of
Achievement*



*Providing
opportunities for
future generations*

Check out our website at: www.adams.k12.mi.us

New Opportunities

The Foundation has been an integral player in providing opportunities for the students at Jeffers High School. These opportunities are provided by the generous support of all our donors, most notably John and Ruanne Opie. Over the years, the Opies have provided the Foundation with funds to fully equip two science labs, the purchase of computers for the science and general labs, teacher supplies, a new and safer parking lot, a self funded scholarship to four students each year attending Michigan Technology University and most recently, the new vocational center.

The classes taught in our new vocational center, along with their generous scholarship fund, will allow students to explore a wide range of opportunities in both academic and vocational fields of study. As an administrator, I feel it is a blessing to have the luxury of John and Ruanne Opie's support as we continue to provide these unique opportunities.

A few years ago, I started the practice of performing exit interviews for all seniors. The information I gained helped in shaping our direction as a District. I noted we focused mainly on the needs of students who were pursuing a four year degree. Our vocational program for students consisted of one shop class and the nursing and auto mechanics programs offered through the Copper Country Intermediate School District. Today, our program has grown significantly with more opportunities added each year. Trish Sherman, Jeffers High School guidance counselor, summed it up nicely, "We are now addressing multiple intelligences, and that is a rare opportunity for a small school."

The new courses currently offered include welding, carpentry, plumbing, masonry and cosmetology. These courses provide hands-on skills and the opportunity for our students to gain more training by participating in our work-based learning program under the supervision of professionals.

Our new cosmetology teacher, Jessie Hannon, is excited to be teaching this course. "I am sensing a change in the confidence of these girls as they are beginning to learn how to present themselves." This simple concept will give these students an advantage as

they interview for potential jobs or for college admission.

Junior Lauren Huotari is also excited as one of the first students to enroll in the cosmetology course. "It's way better than I expected. We are learning a lot more than just hair design and style."

Senior Jay Stevens enrolled in the carpentry course this year even though he plans to study radiology at NMU in the fall of 2016. "When I get older, I want to know how to do stuff. I don't want to hire someone to do a simple job. I want to do it on my own. This class will allow me to do that."

The Foundation has agreed to help support another course that would expand the greenhouse gardening course into a culinary opportunity. Barb Rose, an individual who helped start the Every Day Healthy, One Day Local project, has garnered support from MTU, local grocers and restaurants to incorporate a class that would allow students to learn about preparing and serving food, cooking on a budget, and growing and preparing food from their own garden. This course would also provide students with the opportunity to participate in work-based learning.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Adams Township School District and Foundation. I encourage you to play a role in providing more opportunities for our students by supporting the Foundation. Every dollar donated provides advantages and opportunities for students in the Adams Township School District.

*Sincerely,
Tim Keteri, Superintendent*



Letter from the Foundation President

It is hard to believe that just eleven months ago we were breaking ground on the new trades center building. Today the building is full to capacity with students in both building trades and cosmetology. Thank you to everyone who contributed and donated to the success of this project. I would like to especially thank the major donor families to the Trades Center; John and Ruanne Opie, Paul and Margaret Karppinen, Jim and Susan Anttonen and Frank and Nancy Rugani.



Kyle Therrian and Ely Ruonavaara in the Welding area of the Trade Building

In 2015 we received donations from over 200 individuals supporting our foundation activities. Without the support of everyone, we would not be able to be the progressive organization we are today. Thank you to all who have made the last twelve years of the Foundation's existence so successful.

The Foundation will have a fundraising dinner on May 7 at Jeffers High School. All proceeds of the event, which includes a wonderful dinner, auction items and a tour of the new facility, will be used to help finance the new culinary center and sustain the skill-based courses that are currently being offered. I encourage you to contact the high school or a current board member of the Foundation to purchase a ticket.

*Sincerely,
Marty Iskra, Foundation President*



Tanner Nicholas and Terrance Skenandore working on copper piping

Letter from the School Board President

It is my honor to introduce myself to the community through the Foundation newsletter as the newly elected president of the Adams Township School District Board of Education. I am a graduate of Hancock High School, but my loyalty is cemented within this district. My children have attended and graduated from this district, with my youngest son still attending. I am inspired to continue the strong tradition of maintaining strong academic standards and encourage the excellent school spirit that I see on a daily basis while attending athletic events.

Through tragedy, I was able to work with the Foundation to set up a scholarship in memory of my daughter Brittany. The outpouring of support in this community has me often thinking how grateful I am to be part of this special place. Her memory lives on in my family and in the school with her scholarship through the Foundation.

I am eager and excited to be part of this great school. Your Adams Township School Board of Education has been a leader in the area of innovation and creative problem solving. Whether it was saving the District thousands of dollars by privatizing school busing or working side by side with the Foundation in establishing the trades building, our school is finding ways to best serve our community. The Board of Education is constantly looking for ways to better provide our students by giving the best tools and more opportunities in choosing successful careers. Our students will be equipped to excel in the college of their choice or have the skills to start a career in a good paying trade. It is our responsibility to provide the opportunity to stay in our area and start their families or move on and apply their Jeffers education anywhere their path leads them.

One of my goals as the President of the School Board is to work closely with the Adams Township School District Foundation. Our district is fortunate to have both of these groups working behind the scenes to provide for our students. The next time you attend a Senior Class Day, take note of all the scholarships that are available to our graduating class. This is because of the tireless work done by the of the men and women volunteers of the Foundation.

With the Board of Education and Foundation working together, I see unlimited possibilities and opportunities for our students. Jeffers will continue to pave the way through innovation that will allow our school, in my opinion, to be the premier school to attend.

A worth-while way that you, as Jeffers Alumni, can become involved in our school is by supporting our Foundation. Please consider helping them out in any way that you can.

*Sincerely,
Steve Nicholas, School Board President*



Elementary Students Shianne Coponen and Clint Dobson

SRES Principal Letter

This has been a year of...staff, schedule and building changes.

As I was trying to reflect on the bright spots of the year, my mind kept thinking back to what felt like challenges at the time, but in the end, were positive and productive changes. New adults around the building always bring a change to the system. Schedule changes that seemed a little chaotic provided students with more learning opportunities, sometimes in a more non-traditional manner. In the upper elementary we added writing as a core class. Band time was lengthened and all students participated in chorus. Opportunity was also added for upper elementary students to work with lower elementary students within their classrooms.

In the midst of change it gives staff, a chance to pull together for our common goal: what is truly best for the student's learning needs. Financial struggles are no secret, yet when all are working hard to do his or her best, often with little means, we have shown we can make it work.

I am truly humbled and grateful for the adults that serve our students in every capacity. In times when there seems to be an endless array of negativity in education, we continue to work as a team, to ensure our students receive the best education every day.

I encourage you all to come by to visit the elementary school. There is not a day when the "little people" here can not put a smile on your face. We are continuously complimented by the warmth and caring atmosphere of this building, and we want to share that with all of you. While you may need to be "buzzed" in the entrance door, once you enter the halls, you will see and feel exactly what I mean. This truly is a place where all are welcome and students come first.

Kim Harris, Principal

High School Happenings

The JHS staff underwent some changes for the 2015/16 year that included two retirements and three new staff members. Mr. Ken Kangas retired after a long, but successful, battle with cancer. Mr. Kurt Heinonen, although still serving the district in a reduced capacity, formally retired from full time employment.

We welcomed to our teaching staff Mrs. Madeline Larson, Mr. Samuel Kilpela and Mr. Michael Randell. Mrs. Larson is teaching English and Web composition, filling the position of Mrs. McCormick who left for a teaching position downstate. Mr. Kilpela is currently part-time, teaching elective courses that include personal finance, engineering concepts and design, technology and greenhouse gardening. Mr. Randell is also part-time, teaching welding, electrical and plumbing trades. At the beginning of the second semester we also welcomed Ms. Jessie Hannon to the staff as our part-time cosmetology instructor. We are excited to have the opportunity to expand and enhance our course offerings with the addition of these fine individuals.

The greenhouse gardening class taught by Mr. Kilpela is the result of a grant we received from the efforts of Mr. Ray Sharp at the Western U.P. Health Department. The greenhouse was constructed this fall and is located on the south side of the new gymnasium. Students will have the opportunity to grow food crops during the year and seedlings for sale in the spring.

Mr. Jonathan Kilpela began a project this fall in conjunction with the MDNR. The program is titled "Salmon in the Classroom" and was coordinated and sponsored by Mr. Tom Rozich, a JHS alumnus. The project has students monitoring and caring for salmon eggs until they are ready to be placed in a river. We are hoping the release of the salmon will be at the Little Salmon Trout River in Redridge this spring.

Finally, JHS will start the spring sport season with a varsity boys baseball team. This will be the complement to the varsity girls softball team started two years ago.

Stay in touch and God Bless,

Michael J. Benda, Principal



Samuel Kilpela and Madeline Larson, two of the new additions to JHS

Salmon in the Classroom

In 1994, while working as a fisheries biologist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, I read an article about classrooms in California raising fish. To my thinking, it was something we needed to do in Michigan to provide students with some outdoor environmental education. Coincidentally, I was working weekends as a 1st Mate on a salmon fishing charter boat on Lake Michigan and the Captain, Kevin Hughes, was an elementary school teacher near Manistee. One weekend, between "Fish On's", we talked about initiating a Salmon in the Classroom (SIC) at his school. It was an easy sell.

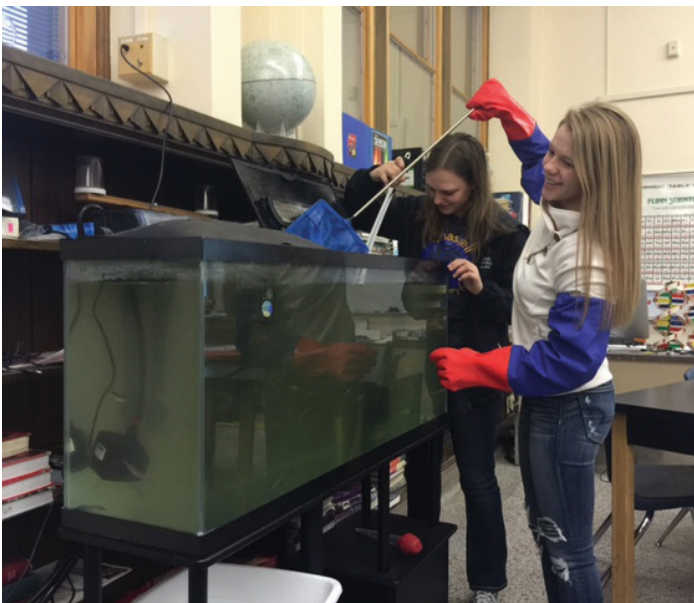
The following week, I contacted the teacher in California, who provided me with details and a curriculum. Kevin and I were off and running. We received funding from the Manistee County Sport Fishing Assn. Kevin made videos of the equipment and his students, which he took to a teachers' conference the following summer. My phone began to ring often, which pleased Kevin and me. The program has grown steadily in the following years.

Many teachers have indicated to me this program gave students who did not have an interest in school a reason to come, learn, and become educated. My daughter Katie is in the SIC program and our joint biological article in the January 22nd Daily Mining Gazette outdoor page expresses her thoughts on the program's value.

This year, JHS enrolled in the SIC program lead by teacher Jonathan Kilpela.

Sincerely,

Tom Rozich, Retired DNR Biologist



High School Juniors Megan Kinnunen and Ashley Lehto

Equipment including a classroom aquarium for SIC was purchased through the generous contributions of Tom Rozich and Copper Country Trout Unlimited.

This fall, the science department at Jeffers High School began a small-scale salmon hatchery program. In November, we received 200 eyed salmon eggs from the Michigan DNR to raise in a 55-gallon aquarium housed in my science lab. In the month of December, the salmon hatched, surviving on egg yolk sacs for several weeks before being given solid food to eat. The salmon fry are currently under 2 inches long, and we plan to raise them until they are approximately 4-5 inches long, which is when we will release them into a local stream.



The DNR sets various requirements for potential streams into which we will release the salmon. They recommended either the Traprock River, the Misery River, or the Salmon Trout River, below the Redridge Dam. My biology classes will be evaluating these rivers and determining which river would be the best for our salmon release.

The Salmon in the Classroom Program was started by the Michigan DNR in the late 1990's and has now spread to over 200 schools across the state, including Jeffers High School. Funding for the JHS Salmon in the Classroom program was acquired through the generosity of donors including Tom Rozich and the Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Sustained funding for additional recurring program expenses will be covered by our Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI) grant. This will ensure that our Salmon in the Classroom program will continue for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kilpela, Science Teacher

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Greenhouse Gardening

The newest structure built this past year was the greenhouse at Jeffers High School. With our mild start to December we were able to have it completed before the snow started to fall. The new greenhouse is located on the south side of the gym to maximize the solar radiation the plants receive and is attached to the exterior wall to help it stay warm during cold nights. The greenhouse class hopes to begin growing vegetables and flowers during the late part of March inside of the greenhouse.

The greenhouse/gardening class is designed to educate the students about the benefits of eating whole foods and supporting the local gardening community. Additionally the class curriculum is designed to promote healthy eating and to give the students knowledge of the industrial food system and benefits of supporting alternative means of farming in the community. The students have had a chance to plant flowers and vegetables from seeds this winter, using grow lights, and they will be transplanting them into the greenhouse once the danger of frost has passed. Student have already planted and researched a variety of flowers and are monitoring the growth of their own choice of plants. Educating our students about the food they eat is one of the most important life skills we can give them. What we eat and where it comes from can have a major impact on our health and the local economy. I think offering a Greenhouse/Gardening class at Jeffers is a true life skill that our students will benefit from for years to come.

*Sincerely,
Samuel Kilpela, Science Teacher*



(Standing from left) Rosalie Larson, Instructor Jessie Hannon, Cierra Stevens and Lauren Huoturi, (Sitting from left) Grace Laitala and Alyssa King working in the new Cosmetology area of the Trades Building.

Exploring Cosmetology

Cosmetology careers have seen a steady growth pattern over the past twelve years. According to the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences (NACCAS), 1,682,641 professionals were employed in 370,215 salons, which included nail salons, barber shops, beauty salons and unisex salons. There has been an 18.3% growth in the number of salons during the past three years in which 65% of the salons are employer-owned. The NACCAS report indicated 53% of salon owners have job openings, which suggests the overwhelming need for cosmetologist and the shortage of those professionals.

The new cosmetology course offered in the trades building will include many specialized options within the cosmetology field. These options include natural hair care, esthetics, nail technician and many other avenues in this artistry. This new course will allow each student to have a look into opportunities found in cosmetology. With an industry relevant curriculum, we will practice elevated standards of safety, sanitation procedures, and the basic building blocks needed in order to work hands-on in this field. Each student will learn to become confident in both theory and practical areas of cosmetology. The "salon," fully-funded by John and Ruanne Opie, is equipped and furnished with the proper instruments and materials enabling each student to gain hands-on experience on performing beauty treatments.

The overall objective of this course is to supply a student with enough background knowledge to help decide if a career in this field will be relevant to their future. This program will guide each student with personal growth, social growth, confidence and customer service skills, all of which are essential for success.

*Sincerely,
Jessie Hannon, Cosmetology Instructor*

Donor List: March, 2015 – December, 2015

Major Donors

Opie, John and Ruanne
GE Foundation

Donors

Amazon Smiles	Iskra, Marty and Gale
Andreini, William	Johnson, Dana
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Yamamoto, Judith	Sydaamaa, Wally and Elanor
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Memorials

Honorariums

Class of 1952	Rugani, Nancy
Class of 1961	Trudgeon, Barbara
Coponen, Lillian	Trudgeon, Richard
Rugani, Dr. Frank	Trudgeon, William Jr.

Gift Donations

Antila, Ron and Sue	Manderfield, Jim and Barb
Book Concern Printers	Miller, Gary
Karppinen, Paul and Margaret	Stimac, David



Adams Township School District Foundation Third Annual Fundraiser Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend the ATSD
Foundation's Third Annual Fundraiser Dinner and
Auction.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 7th, 2016
Tours: 5:30 - 6:30
Appetizers at 6:00
Dinner at 7:00
Jeffers High School
Painesdale, Michigan

Dinner Prepared by: Eric Karvonen, Executive Chef
\$50.00 per person

Following dinner, enjoy an auction with items from:

David Stimac
Ron and Sue Antila
Hyatt Regency of Green Bay

Dinner Menu

Prepared by: *Eric Karvonen, Chef*

Appetizers
Chef Carved Beef Tenderloin
Herb Grilled Chicken
Baked Penne with Meatballs
Small Red Potatoes
Steamed Mixed Vegetables
Mixed-Greens Salad with Strawberries and Feta
Assorted Desserts

Tickets available from any ATSD Board Member or contact:
Lorraine: 281-5066 or ltomasi@mtu.edu
Marti: 482-7416 or mrashleigh@yahoo.com

The ATSD Foundation supports teacher and student
inspired programs.

Scholarships	Trades Programs
Art Program	Carpentry
Music Program	Electrical
Culinary Arts	Plumbing
Program	Masonry
History Program	Welding
	Cosmetology

All Proceeds will support the ATSD Foundation. \$25.00 of the
ticket price qualifies as a tax deductible charitable donation.

ATSD Foundation
Support for Students, Faculty and Administration