

2021
DeSocio
Scholarship
Winner

Sophie
Lesch

★ don't forget!
Fall grant applications
due by Thursday,
October 15, 2021



2020 - 2021

**Auburn
Education Foundation**
Discover the Opportunities

Annual Report

For information about
serving on a committee,
making a donation, or our other
activities, please visit our
website at
www.auburnedfoundation.org.

Thank you!

We are sincerely grateful
to our donors, business
sponsors, and supporters
for their generosity,
engagement, and
ongoing contributions!

2021
Dean LaDue
Memorial
Scholarship
Winners

Abby
Franchina

Allyson
Tracy

Letter from the President



“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities



What a year! Charles Dickens captured the feelings that so many have experienced since the early part of 2020.

For a second year in a row, Covid-19 stood in the way of students engaging in the most basic educational experiences that have so enriched the school years for generations: attending school with friends; socializing at lunch and recess; participating in team sports and field trips; attending proms.

New phrases such as “virtual meetings” and “hybrid schedules” became part of our lexicon.

Teachers and parents were called upon to find creative ways to balance the challenges presented by the pandemic, while attempting to maintain a sense of normalcy.

Despite these unprecedented challenges in our lifetime, the spring 2021 brought forth renewed optimism, with the return of in-school attendance, team sports, plays, and graduations. The AEF Board of Directors honors all students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators who maneuvered through “the worst of times” faced in recent history.

Through it all, AEF remained active, conducting meetings through the Zoom platform, utilizing texts, phone calls, and emails to communicate between meetings, encouraging teachers to submit grant proposals that met the numerous instructional challenges they faced, and partnering with the district administration to identify a signature project to address an area of need caused by the pandemic.

The grants funded in 2020-2021 reflect the creativity exhibited by the district staff, rising to the unforeseen challenges they faced. From snowshoeing to GooseChase, we partnered with teachers to provide unique, enriching experiences to address the curriculum. In addition to summaries of all grants, we are featuring two of this year’s grants in this annual report.

We look forward to the successful report of in-school teaching and learning through the 2021-2022 school year. AEF will continue its support of proposed opportunities to expand children’s educational experiences through its teacher grants.

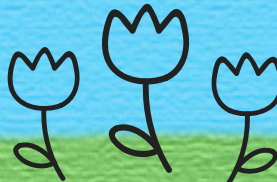
I would be remiss if I fail to thank our sponsors, partners, and supporters. Many have funded special events that we were unable to hold this year; yet they, too, continued their support through direct contributions to AEF. Our annual appeal was the most successful to date, underscoring the resiliency and generosity of our community.

Finally, The AEF Board of Directors is grateful to its retiring members, Karol Soules, and Lisa Carr. Their dedication, wisdom and guidance helped to make AEF a stronger, more effective foundation.

Welcome to our newly elected board members: Tom Bachman, Kelley Gridley, Cindy Murphy, and Kathy Rhodes. Thank you for answering the call to volunteer. No doubt that each of you will leave your mark, helping us continue to serve the teachers and students of the AECSD.

On behalf of the Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors, have a wonderful and safe 2021-2022 school year!

Yours in education,
Miguelina Cuevas-Post



By the numbers:

AEF was founded in 2003

Annual appeal contributions for fiscal year 2020-2021: \$27,519.

This represents a 110% increase over last year's appeal. The number of donors increased to 130, a 46% increase year-over-year and the average amount donated was \$175, an increase of 15% year-over-year.

The funds raised through the annual appeal has steadily increased from the first year's results of \$7,015 to our 2020-2021 results. This is an increase of 300%.

AEF funded 7 grants in 2020-2021, including a special grant submitted by the district.

WOW!



Board of Directors

The board of Directors consists of 15 member volunteers. Through its volunteer force, and community partners, AEF implements its mission through teacher grants, administration of the La Due and DeSoccio scholarships, Hall of Distinction to honor graduates of Auburn High School, as well as many other activities that enrich the educational opportunities of students in the AECSD.

Miguelina Cuevas-Post
President

Janie Hutchinson
Immediate Past President

William Tenity
Vice President

Denise Pellegrino
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Kathie Collier

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JD Pabis

Andy Tehan

Tom Bachman

Kathy Rhodes

Kelley Gridley

Cindy Murphy

Ex-Officio Members

Jeffrey Pirozzolo
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa Green
Business Administrator

Ian Phillips, Board of Education Representative

What we accomplished in 2020-2021

- ☒ Held a successful annual appeal, that included donations from corporate sponsors who in the past have supported events that could not be held this year due to the Covid pandemic, including Hall of Distinction. Increased annual appeal over 2019-2020 by 110%.
- ☒ Revised the AEF by-laws to realign our committee structure.
- ☒ Partnered with the AECSD to identify a district-wide need addressed to a special AEF grant.
- ☒ Board continued to hold business meetings virtually.
- ☒ Awarded grants at the same levels as previous years.
- ☒ Increased visibility and outreach to the community.
- ☒ Selected a website design firm to redesign our website and manage our social media presence and effectiveness.

Looking ahead: 2021 - 2022 goals

- ☐ Continue to reach out to teachers to encourage submission of grants, with emphasis on newly hired staff (on-going goal).
- ☐ Develop packets of information to distribute to teachers, new AEF Board Directors, and community organizations.
- ☐ Update website, and continue to expand social media presence.
- ☐ Reintroduce events postponed by Covid 19.
- ☐ Hold in-person board meetings, observing safety recommendations.

Welcome to the recently elected members of the AEF Board of Directors

Tom Bachman is a Senior Sales Executive at Palladium Times. Tom lives in Auburn with his wife, Jayde, sons Gabe, Mikey and Maverick, daughter Rachel, dogs Leo and Jester, and cat Lucy

Kelley Gridley - is a commercial loan officer at Tompkins Trust company. She is the proud mother of daughter Samantha, and son-in-law Michael

Cindy Murphy is a retired middle school social studies teacher from the AECSD. She resides in Auburn with husband Hugh, and children Lauren, AJ, and Dax, a German shepherd/Doberman mix

Kathy Rhodes is not new to the AEF board, having previously served as the AECSD Board representative as an ex-officio member.

Ian Phillips will serve as the Board of Education representative. Ian had previously served as a Director.

Auburn Education Foundation 2020-2021 Grant Projects



Through a competitive grants process, Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) awards funding to educators who have creative project ideas that capture the attention and imagination of Auburn Enlarged City School District students, but which cannot be supported through the regular district budget. To date, AEF has funded more than 140 creative educational projects in grades K-12. During the 2020/21 school year, AEF supported several projects—examples of which are highlighted below—that enabled students to learn in unique and innovative ways.

AJHS Cloud Based Video Editing

Auburn Junior High School

A subscription to WeVideo was purchased for use by eighth graders at Auburn Junior High School. Video production is considered to be a “must have” skill and has been incorporated into the AJHS Technology Curriculum for several years. Students will learn about all aspects of making movies and will take on the role of script writer, videographer, director, talent and sound editor of their own video projects. This program will provide cloud based operation for remote, hybrid and in-school productions allowing all in the target group to participate. Potential projects include creating their own video yearbook.

Understanding the Weather – Using Models

Auburn Junior and High School

The Auburn Dearth Science Department purchased the American Meteorological Weather Cyclor, interactive models that allow students to manipulate a variety of weather variables and see the cause and effect of this variable manipulation. The goal is to help students understand the complex weather phenomenon in the atmosphere. Students will analyze and interpret the data on the model. Students will read the graphs on the weather cyclor and identify fronts and associated weather patterns. These models will be used by Earth Science teachers in both the High School and Junior High School.

Fatal Vision Opioid Program

Auburn Junior and High School

A Fatal Vision’s Opioid Program Kit educates junior high and high school students on the effects and dangers of the use of opioids. The kit is an interactive learning experience that models how opioid use depresses the central nervous system, causing several impairments. These impairments negatively impact an individual’s health, quality of life and safety. By experiencing the behavioral effects of opioid use, participants are more aware of people’s susceptibility and knowledgeable of the severe consequences associated with using opioids.

Yoga and Mindfulness Reboot

Auburn Junior High School

The Yoga program at Auburn Junior High School continues with funding for yoga mats, blocks and other associated items to keep this successful program available to students. Yoga is a lifetime benefit that helps to decrease stress in students’ lives and increase mindfulness. Yoga classes are offered to Health 8 classes throughout the school year and also to those students in need of extra support with Covid related stress/issues.



★ \$32,810.75 in teacher grants
were awarded for the
2020-2021 school year!

\$25,000 Grant to the Auburn Enlarged City School District Personalized Learning Teacher Fellowship

All Schools

This grant supplements a personalized learning teacher fellowship program used by the district at all grade levels. Supplies were purchased to further enhance the students' experiences in this individualized learning model. This fellowship helps educators reimagine what is possible for every student by redesigning the classroom experience. Selected educators engage in workshops to collaborate, to learn and practice strategies which will be implemented within the classroom for both in-person and remote instruction. Students have a voice and a choice in their learning through project-based activities and choice boards. Students self-assess their progress and engage in conferencing with the teacher to set and monitor individual learning goals. Students will also be targeted to serve as tech-mentors for their peers. Staff will be encouraged to visit these classrooms to observe and learn about this innovative practice.

GooseChase

GooseChase is a digital scavenger hunt where you compete against other people to complete "missions" involving either text, photo, or video answers. Each mission is assigned a point value, and you may be given bonus points for creativity. There will be prizes for the most creative submissions. This program will serve as an engaging activity to help students and families create a sense of community that has been lost due to Covid.

Snowshoes for Herman Ave Kindergarten Students

Herman Elementary


Twenty-five pairs of snowshoes were purchased for Herman Ave Elementary School to be used in gym classes. These snowshoes provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and additional learning opportunities for students. Outdoor activities are needed during these times when children are spending much time inside and will serve as a chance for children to recharge and refocus. These snowshoes can be used in other grade levels as the snowshoes fit a range of boot sizes.





Personalized Learning Teacher Fellowship

Sarah Cupelli, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction



The funding received from the AEF grant allowed the Auburn Enlarged City School District to provide technology to be able to implement student technology mentors, software for teachers to be able to implement collaborative, project-based learning and student reflection as well as supplies and materials for families to support children at home with their learning. These resources were used to enhance the work we were doing with our personalized learning teacher fellowship. The Personalized Learning Fellowship was designed to support Auburn ECSD teacher leaders with deepening their understanding of the Core Four of Personalized Learning and implementing these elements in their classrooms. The CORE Four are:

1. Targeted Instruction

Instruction aligns to specific student needs and learning goals.

2. Flexible Content and Tools

Instructional materials allow for differentiated path, pace, and performance tasks.

3. Student Reflection and Ownership

Ongoing student reflection promotes ownership of learning.

4. Data Driven Decisions

Frequent data collection informs instructional decisions and groupings.

The \$25,000 AEF grant allowed us to purchase laptops for 15 student tech mentors. These students supported their peers as a part of the ownership of learning. They did this during lunches, study halls and student collaborative times. The, 'tech mentors', supported remote students with technology troubleshooting, password reset, zoom sessions for navigating platforms and software needs. This support led to the tech mentors being able to develop leadership skills under the guidance of their teacher as well as over 200 students who reported they were able to

get support from a peer that led to them being successful with classwork. The funding also allowed us to purchase a district-wide (7 buildings) subscription for Gimkit. Gimkit is a software program that teachers use for student assessment and then use the data from that to plan for individual student needs. Gimkit Live is the most popular component of the program which is essentially a learning game where teachers can create quizzes in the form of a game show. This was very successful and engaging for students as well as an efficient way for teachers to collect student achievement data. The last thing the funding was used for was family engagement materials. Schools held family engagement nights where they taught families how to use different math, ELA and technology resources and then gave all families that participated the resources to bring home. These resources included, books, math and literacy games, manipulatives for hands on math learning, headphones for digital resources, spelling games and dice just to name a few.

We received positive feedback on all 3 areas that we targeted with funding. Students reported that having peers available to support them had a positive impact on their remote and hybrid learning success. Students also reported high engagement and interest in the use of Gimkit and Gimkit live. Teachers reported that Gimkit helped make remote and hybrid assessment more efficient and engaging for students. Families reported that the materials and resources provided through family engagement nights were very helpful in working with their children at home. Many families requested these events to continue next year.

The funding we received from the AEF allowed us to further expand the work we were doing with our teachers through the personalized learning fellowship. This funding greatly enhanced the teachers' experience and the impact on students.



GooseChase

This past year AEF awarded a grant to Auburn Librarians Victoria Calarco and Anne Mlod to fund a subscription to GooseChase, an online scavenger hunt app. Anne and Victoria learned about the app GooseChase while attending a conference. Game creators push missions out to players. Missions are text, video, or picture based and each mission is assigned a point value. As players complete missions their entries appear on the game stream and they are awarded points. This community building project, in which over two hundred people throughout the district participated, helped students, families, and staff cope with the isolation that Covid brought with it. Video highlights from the GooseChase game can be watched here: <https://ensemble.cayboces.org/Watch/goosechase>

Dear Auburn High School 2021 Graduate,

As you approach graduation day, the Auburn Education Foundation (AEF) extends its congratulations and pride in your accomplishments. Your journey to graduation has been an example of resilience and determination. Covid 19 pandemic, a health and safety challenge not seen in a century, could have stood in the way of you reaching this very important right of passage yet you triumphed, staying focused.

Parents, caregivers, teachers, and school staff have been part of the journey you began 13 or so years ago. Countless before you have undertaken this journey, leading to high school graduation. It is not always easy, but for the class of 2021, the school experience has meant the loss of the many traditions that make the junior and senior years memorable. You are a success story.

As you continue through your life, don't forget that success is in your hands. After all, you triumphed over Covid-19!

Many of us have memories of you as pre-schoolers registering for kindergarten, visiting your kindergarten classroom and getting to know your teacher, or boarding the school bus for your first bus ride. In what seems like the blink of an eye, you stood on stage as each teacher called the names of your classmates, each brimming with pride, having earned the right of passage to first grade!

You are about to enter a new chapter. The world of work, and/or the pursuit of higher education awaits you. Either experience will provide you with a greater sense of independence, and present new challenges. Take each experience and challenge with the same determination and confidence that you have exhibited during these past two years. We know you will succeed.

The Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors would love to hear from you through your future endeavors. Please stay in touch through Facebook, visit our website, or send a note to our mailing address. We are always excited to hear from and about the Auburn Enlarged City School District alumni.

Wishing you a bright and healthy future,

Auburn Education Foundation Board of Directors



We Gratefully Acknowledge Our Partners, Sponsors & Donors

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, partners, and funders and in-kind donors. Your generosity has made it possible for AEF to continue as a strong, viable organization working to provide experiences for students that are not funded through the district budget.

We received foundation support from:

D E French Foundation
Stanley Metcalf Foundation
Columbia Foundation
Schwartz Family Foundation

Sponsors that donated were:

Ferrara Fiorenza PC
Savannah Bank
SWBR

Fun Fact!

Mary Borkoski may be the oldest living alum of the Auburn City District. Born in 1920, Ms. Borkoski is a member of the East High class of '38. East High, now Auburn Junior High, opened 5 years before Ms. Borkoski's graduation. We would love to hear from/about our alumni from the early years of the Auburn School District.

Annual Report 2020 - 2021



A registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides significant resources to champion enrichment programs which elevate the educational experiences of Auburn Enlarged City School District students from average to extraordinary.

A copy of AEF's latest annual financial report may be obtained from the Attorney General's Charities Bureau Website www.charities.com, or from AEF by mailing a written request to AEF at 78 Thornton Avenue, PO Box 592, Auburn, NY 13021.

Who We Are

Founded in 2003, the Auburn Education Foundation mission statement seeks to support an enriched learning environment for Auburn Enlarged City School students through collaboration, gifts, and grants. We value diversity, support educators who have creative and innovative ideas that capture students' attention and ignite their imagination; and celebrate the accomplishments of students and alumni.



Community Partners

Paul DelPiano
Hall of Distinction Committee

Jennifer Forcey
Hall of Distinction Committee

\\ / / /
Hall of Distinction and Gobble 'n Go
are proudly scheduled to return in 2022!
Please check updates on our website,
and on Facebook.