



Teachers Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

The Danville Public School Foundation and Danville School District 118 have the privilege of announcing the **Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching** recipients for 2020. Our congratulations go to:

- Scott Stewart**
Meade Park Elementary School
- Matthew Skovran**
South View Upper Elementary School
- Jamie Skovran**
Kenneth D. Bailey Academy
- Joanna Howard**
Danville High School



Mr. Stewart has been teaching for 31 years with Danville School District 118. He began with the district immediately after receiving his degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1989.

Scott Stewart Mr. Stewart stated he loves the family atmosphere at Meade Park and the devoted staff. He believes the best thing about teaching is watching the students grow and learn. He enjoys that every day is different.

Mr. Stewart and his wife have been married for 30 years, and they have two children and one grandchild.



Matthew Skovran

Matt Skovran is in his 20th year of teaching and has been teaching at South View Upper Elementary School since 2008.

Originally from Minnesota, he attended the University of Minnesota on a

baseball scholarship, later transferring to the University of St. Francis in Joliet, IL. There, he received a degree in Elementary Education and later a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Mr. Skovran stated the best part of teaching are the "light bulb moments, when a child's face lights up like a light bulb, glowing with excitement, confidence, and knowledge. It's like as if their entire face is telling everyone, 'I got this, and nothing can stop me.' That light bulb is why I became a teacher."

Mr. Skovran and his wife Jamie (also a 2020 Excellence in Teaching recipient) have three children. Along with the life adventures with his family, he enjoys the Chicago Cubs, running half marathons, and Disney.

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"A teacher affects eternity. Teachers can never tell where their influence stops." — Harry Adams

Excellence, continued from page 1



Jamie Skovran

Mrs. Skovran has over 16 years of teaching experience with Danville District 118. For the past five years, she has taught at the Kenneth D. Bailey Academy, and prior to that she was at South View Middle School (now upper elementary).

Mrs. Skovran is a 1997 graduate from Danville High School. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Illinois State University and a Master's in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Her two favorite things about teaching are the relationships she gets to build with kids and working with a staff that is always striving to put kids first.

Mrs. Skovran and her husband Matthew (also a 2020 Excellence in Teaching recipient) have three "amazing" children who all attend Danville District 118 schools.

When not teaching, she and her husband are very involved supporting the various activities in which their chil-

dren are involved. Mrs. Skovran also enjoys the outdoors, gardening and working on home improvements.

Mrs. Skovran wanted everyone to know that her photograph for this article was taken by talented and soon-to-be 2020 DHS graduate Mackenzie Kizer.

Mrs. Howard has taught at Danville High School for the past 20 years. Prior to that, she spent one year at South View Middle School. She began her first year of teaching as a long-term substitute teacher at Bismarck Junior/Senior High School.



Joanna Howard

After graduating from Bismarck-Henning High School, Mrs. Howard obtained an Associate's Degree from Danville Area Community College and then a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education from Eastern Illinois University.

Mrs. Howard stated the most enjoyable thing about teaching is "having the opportunity to see my students succeed! It is amazing, while the students are in high school, to watch

them become successful, and understand the concepts and life-lessons that present themselves. It is even MORE amazing to hear from them post-graduation, when they realize the impact of what they learned and have had the opportunity to apply it."

The **Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching Awards** were established in 2001 and are annually bestowed upon the outstanding teacher from the elementary, upper elementary or middle school and high school levels. Teachers receiving this award represent the finest in teaching, demonstrating a continuing dedication to their profession and to their students.

The award was named for **Dr. David L. Fields**, a 1953 Danville High School graduate, who retired as the Superintendent of Danville Schools after serving 40 years (1960-2000) with the District as a teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Each recipient receives a \$500 cash honorarium from the School Foundation, a \$500 stipend from District 118 for instructional supplies of the honoree's choice to further enhance the educational environment in the recipient's classroom and an engraved paperweight from the Danville Education Association.

Danville Public School Foundation

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Foundation Awards Grants in March

Just before the COVID restrictions began, the Danville Public School Foundation Board of Directors did what they do best and awarded several grants totally over \$23,000.

Many of the projects funded with these awards will be put into motion at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year due to the State of Illinois Board of Education's distant learning requirements.

Mr. Henry Schmitt, a chemistry teacher from Danville High School, requested funding for Atomic Model Sets. These model kits allow students to construct models of complex organic and inorganic molecules. These kits assist students in their understanding of the bonding structures among molecules.

Mrs. Andrea Vanleer requested a grant to fund the Viking Regatta,

where geometry students work in teams design and build a cardboard boat. The students have to collaborate to plan, design and construct their boat. All this must be done with a 4' x 8' piece of cardboard and a 20 yard roll of duct tape. The "captain" then sails the boat in the pool at Danville High School.

Mrs. Elizabeth Benjamin's Problem Solving Club at Meade Park School had been producing positive videos about the school and community. One such video received 26,000 views on the school's Facebook page. She was awarded a grant to purchase an IPAD and other equipment to improve the students ability to create these videos.

Mr. Adam Owen, the music teacher at Meade Park Elementary School, received a grant for 40 ukuleles. His

plan is to use these in his third – and fourth - grade music classes. He believes the ukuleles will provide the students a unique and engaging way for students to actively participate in their musical learning.

Also, each of four schools will be receiving a book vending machine, like the one the Foundation provided Southwest Elementary School in January. The schools receiving the machines will be Edison Elementary, Garfield Elementary, Mark Denman Elementary, and Northeast Magnet Elementary.

These grants represent a portion of the approximately \$73,000 in grant funds approved for the 2019-2020 academic year. These grants are made possible because of the generosity of our donors. Thank you for your continued support.

Foundation Operates Remotely



Since March 16, we at the Danville Public School Foundation, have

joined thousands around the country by working remotely due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have moved to Phase 3 of Open Illinois and will once again be working from our offices but still practicing social distancing.

Our educational institutions have been challenged during this pandemic, and the teachers and staff of Danville District 118 have risen to the challenge. They have worked tire-

lessly in this new environment delivering instruction to their students.

It is too soon to say how things will look this fall, but rest assured, the teachers and staff will continue in their efforts no matter what the challenges. Because of you, the Danville Public School Foundation will be there also to help in providing enhanced educational opportunities for the students attending Danville Public Schools.

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