

Students Shine At the 16th Annual 365 Club Breakfast And Guests Enjoy Onsite Lu System Demonstrations



Danville High School Future Problem Solvers with DHS Principal Jacob Bretz

It's always fun to talk about the programs made available for students through the generosity of our donors, but this year our goal was to let donors experience it. So that donors were able to fully understand how impactful the addition of these new interactive digital playgrounds (Lu Systems) are, a demo unit was provided onsite at the 16th annual 365 Club Breakfast which was held April 17, 2025 at Turtle Run. Not only did guests enjoy great food and fantastic student presentations, as they arrived they were invited to throw a ball at the wall and test the Lu out for themselves.

Needless to say, the 2025 365 Club Breakfast was a success. The Julius W. Hegeler II Foundation was once again our title sponsor, Iroquois Federal Foundation was our breakfast sponsor, Envirox was our program sponsor and the Golden Nugget came onboard as our promotional sponsor.

***\$186,802 in educational programs were implemented for students last year!
That's something to celebrate.***

The program kicked off with a presentation from Kenneth D. Bailey Academy principal, Mitzi Campbell, and a group of her students. They shared in their own words just how the Lu System has transformed PE classes at their school. Danville High School principal, Jacob Bretz, then introduced the Future Problem Solvers and they spoke about their career exploration initiatives and career sharing activities recently implemented at DHS.

(Cont. pg 2)



Guests enjoy the 16th Annual 365 Club breakfast

Danville Public School Foundation's
Board of Directors & Staff:

Officers:

President Curt Ellis
Vice President Mark Lindvahl
Secretary Lisa Campbell
Treasurer: Mark J. Denman

Directors:

Adam Brown
Jim Christison
Mark Denman
Dr. David Fields
Emma Forrest
Trinidad Hernandez
Debi Hosch
Todd Lichtenberger
Alex Rosdail
Lester Potts
Patti Rull

Ex-Officio Members:

Interim Superintendent John Hart
School Board Rep. Alice Payne
DEA Representative Julie Legg

Staff:

Executive Director Bob Richard
Co-Director Stephanie Yates

(Cont. from pg 1)

The presentations wrapped up with DHS math teacher, Mitch Thomas, and his Honors Geometry students speaking about the 2024 Cardboard Boat Regatta and how much fun they had paddling their handcrafted cardboard creations across the DHS pool. While some sank, others completed several laps. This was such a fun and engaging learning experience for the students that will continue annually with support of the Foundation.

Our thanks to all of the outstanding students and teachers who presented at this year's breakfast. It was wonderful to celebrate our donors and all of the opportunities made possible through their generosity over the last year.



KDBA Principal, Mitzi Campbell, speaking with students about their new Lu System



365 Club Breakfast Cast

365 Club Breakfast Student Ambassadors & Presenters:

DBA- Dashaya Polk, Delana Jackson,
Thomas Miller

Liberty Elementary- Adrian Evans,
Channing Jefferson, E Miyah Phillpott
Danville High School FPS- Bailee Easton,
Paige Norton, Samantha Wagner, Terriana
Wooten, Deana Linares, Malia Roberson,
Maia Roberson, Courtney Pritchard
Danville High School Math-
Samantha Brown & Kahjeemah Williams

DANVILLE VIKING CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA



On May 9, 2025 the Danville Public School Foundation once again sponsored the Danville High School's cardboard boat races. Here are just a few photos of the students in action.

*Photo Credit: Students in Mrs Hile's
Multimedia Class*

Donations Received Since Our Last Newsletter

365 Club

Christopher Easton Kenneth D. Sanders Andrew Seibert

Scholarships, Memorial, General & Restricted Gifts

Mark Denman


Brick by Brick - Walk of Honor

Payton O. Hile & Noah P. Hile By: Dan Hile

2025 Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Danville Public School Foundation is proud to sponsor the **Dr. David L. Fields Excellence in Teaching Awards**. Established in 2001 and named in honor of former District 118 Superintendent Dr. David L. Fields, these awards are bestowed annually to outstanding teachers from the primary, 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 2025 recipients are:


Carrie Waterman



“Carrie embodies everything this award stands for in the form of dedication, excellence, and an endless commitment to students. Throughout her career, she has been a guiding light at Edison Elementary and a shining example of what an outstanding educator can and should be. I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate. Carrie has devoted 31 years to District 118. She has spent the entirety of this time giving her all to the students and staff of Edison Elementary.”

- Kristin Shanks, Principal, Edison Elementary


Jennifer Rambole



“Mrs. Rambole has been a teacher at Kenneth D. Bailey Academy since 2013. She is a well respected leader amongst her peers and a true advocate for her students. Her classes are typically amongst the top credit earners in the building, as she makes intentional efforts to keep her students on task. She is flexible and responsive to her students’ academic needs, as she regularly tailors the courses she teaches. She played a pivotal role in bringing dual enrollment courses to KDBA, as well as designing and piloting new curriculum that will benefit upcoming classes of students in the alternative learning environment.”

-Mitzi Campbell, Principal, Kenneth D. Bailey Academy

Bethany Free



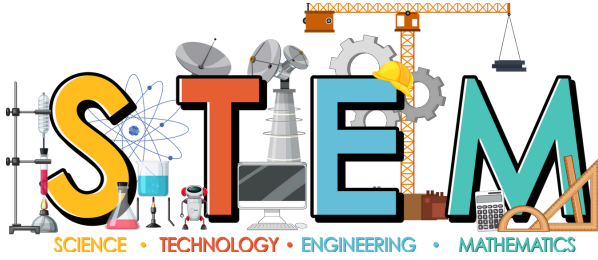
“Mrs. Free has worked for District 118 since 2012 beginning her career at North Ridge Middle School and then began teaching math at DHS in 2016. Mrs. Free teaches some of Danville High School’s most vulnerable learners in Algebra and Transitional Algebra. Her lessons keep students active and engaged and she provides effective feedback to her students. As a result, 94.5% of her students met their growth targets this year. Bethany actively contributes strategies and ideas for instructional improvement with Algebra PLC. Her steady presence and guidance have been an invaluable support.”

- Jacob Bretz, Principal, Danville High School



Foundation Feedback

Sharing the Impact of Your Gifts



“Our 4th grade Problem Solving Club at Southwest Elementary has used several of the STEM cart activities provided by the Danville Public School Foundation this year. The students have enjoyed working together and creating their own chain reactions and power circuits.

I will be using several of the kits in my 1st grade class that go along with Fairy Tale characters. We will use them at the end of our reading unit for Fairy Tales. My students are excited to work together.

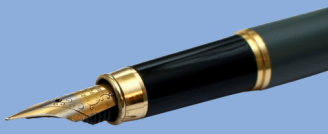
The other grade levels are excited to use it next quarter to wrap up their reading units and end of the year activities. Thank you so much!”

- Amy Toler Teacher, Southwest Elementary



“I think the biggest support the STEM activities provide the students is the opportunity to work together to solve problems and create new things!”

Southwest Elementary students putting their creativity to the test using new STEM activities. Here they are posing with their creations!



Thank you

A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Support

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

Bob Richard shares some thoughts as he retires as Executive Director



Bob Richard

On June 1, 2009, I had the privilege of being named the Danville Public School Foundation's Executive Director. During the past 16 years together we have had some great successes in providing fun, challenging and exciting educational opportunities to the students attending Danville public schools. In fact, because of your support, the Foundation has awarded over \$1,200,000 in support of our mission.

On June 30, 2025, I am retiring as Executive Director and Stephanie Yates will step into this position on July 1. Over the past 20 months Stephanie has demonstrated a true passion for our mission and will lead the Foundation towards an even brighter future. **Stephanie you will do great!**

Since this is my last opportunity to write to you in my current role I think it is appropriate to thank those who have been instrumental in the Foundation's successes these past 16 years.

I have been blessed to have outstanding Foundation board members. Their commitment to the Foundation's mission of providing enhanced educational opportunities for the children has been unwavering as has their support of the staff at the Foundation. **Thank you for all you do.**

When I started with the Foundation the Board of Directors also hired Mary Shutt as a quarter-time employee to assist in our efforts. Mary and I worked together for over 14 years before her retirement in 2023. **Her friendship and support have been much appreciated.**

When I was hired, even before I worked my first day, I met with my friend Julius W. Hegeler II and asked him for his support. He committed an immediate \$50,000 with a promise of an additional \$50,000 for the next four years with the condition that I would remain Executive Director during that time. That meant the world to me and the Board of Directors were very appreciative. Julius remained a strong supporter and at his passing in 2019 he bequeathed \$2,000,000 to the Foundation. **Thank you Julius.**

The success of the Danville Public School Foundation is, without a doubt, a result of the continued gifts from you, our donors! Since 2009 we have had various fundraising events none more successful than our signature annual event the **365 Club** (yep, that's a link to join.) Whether you have been with us since 2009 or became a 365 Club member in 2025 it is only through your generosity that we have been able to provide that \$1,200,000 in support for the boys and girls attending Danville public schools. Words cannot express my appreciation for your belief in our mission and for your continued support. **You are the best! Thank you.**

As we move forward Stephanie will continue to need that support. It has been an extreme pleasure to work with her in the transition. She has requested and the Board of Directors has approved that I remain involved as a Support Specialist (quarter-time) with the Foundation. I look forward to this new, reduced role, with the Foundation as we continue to provide inspiring, fun and challenging learning experiences for the students.



Donor Spotlight

JANE MCFADDEN, VERMILION COUNTY CORONER

The Foundation was excited to catch up with Vermilion County Coroner, Jane McFadden. She and her husband, Vic, were some of the very first members of the 365 Club. Both US Army veterans, Jane and Vic recently celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary. Jane began her 22 year career with the Danville Police Department in 1994 rising through the ranks quickly to become the highest ranking woman on the Department. As Crime Scene Unit Commander, Field Training Officer, FOIA Officer and Grant Writer for the Department, Jane became used to wearing many hats. She was the Criminal Investigation Division Commander when she was elected to the office of the Vermilion County Coroner in November of 2016. She is presently in her third term.

Jane first became involved with Danville schools through her mentorship of students in the “Bigs in Blue” program offered through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She mentored two students in the Danville schools from middle school through high school and has maintained a relationship with them to this day.

“The 365 Club allows the foundation to make a huge impact on the student’s ability to learn, create and grow.”

- Jane McFadden

As Coroner, Jane became involved with the Future Problem Solvers at Danville High School to help bring awareness to Traffic Safety. She was grateful to DHS teacher, Lori Woods, for connecting her with this group of students.

Jane also helped to start the Junior Citizen’s Police Academy with the assistance of Kathy Richard who was the director of the Halo Project at the hospital. This program was for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who would learn about the inner workings of the Danville Police Department.

Jane strongly supports any program that challenges a student to look at problems and obstacles in a unique and unconventional way. “It creates thinkers and problem solvers,



DPD Officer Lewallen and Commander McFadden

students who will not be afraid to challenge the status quo and bring new fresh ideas into the workplace”.

Jane and Vic like supporting DPSF because they feel that the impact is visible. They are able to hear firsthand from students and learn about the programs at the 365 Club breakfast each spring. Having two grown children and four grandchildren, Jane understands the value of investing in children. Through her career, mentorship and community involvement, there is no question, the lives that Jane has touched over the years. We are grateful for her.



Coroner McFadden reports to the scene



Vic McFadden and Jane McFadden