



ladue education foundation

Above and Beyond for All Students



2023-24 Annual Report to the Community



The mission of the Ladue Education Foundation & Alumni Association (LEF) is to advance the excellence of the Ladue School District and enhance its legacy by expanding opportunities for student success.

Dear Ladue Schools Community:

Greetings from the Ladue Education Foundation & Alumni Association (LEF)! We are pleased to share the LEF's 2023-24 Annual Report with you and celebrate the many ways your exemplary generosity helped take education *Above and Beyond for All Students* in every grade level at every school.

With your support, the LEF awarded more than \$216,000 to our teachers and staff for grants and enrichment programs including a portable planetarium for out-of-this-world learning experiences at all levels, cutting edge learning tools, curricular initiatives, and outdoor learning centers at the elementary level.

In addition, our caring community came together to help the LEF achieve its \$350,000 capital campaign goal to fund the West Campus Plaza project in partnership with Ladue Schools. The Plaza provides much-needed improvements to athletic facilities at the Fifth Grade Center.

The LEF's annual 'Due Run 4 Education and online auction also exceeded fundraising goals, bringing more than \$58,000 to support extraordinary opportunities for all Ladue students.

The LEF joins together diverse members of our Ladue School District community, united in our belief in public education. We welcome not only your philanthropic support, but also your involvement as committee members and volunteers. Please visit us at laduefoundation.org, subscribe to our newsletter, and engage with us on social media.

Thank you again for your extraordinary support!



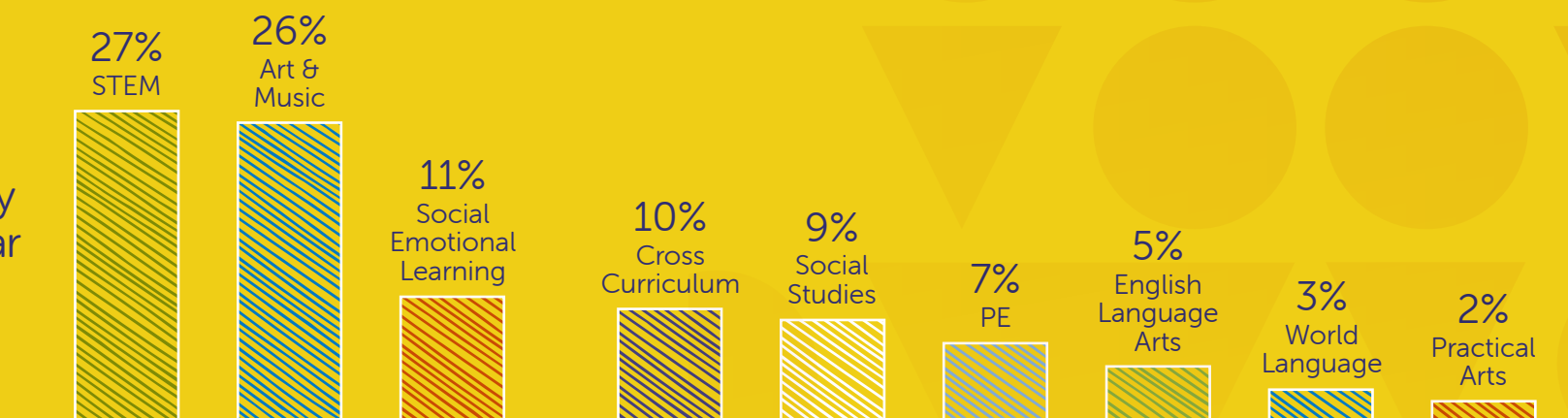
Julie Maise Ferrie '72
Executive Director
Ladue Education Foundation



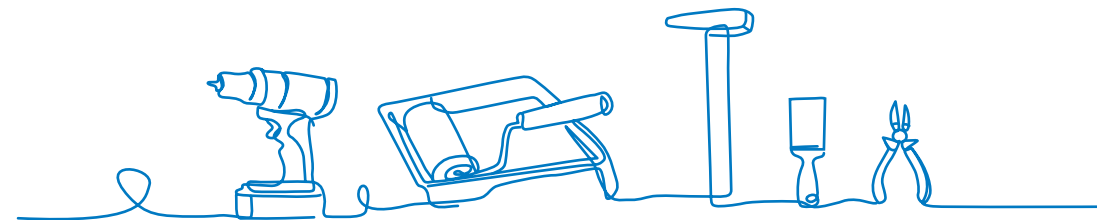
Andrea Bezzant
Board President

Total Funds Awarded
2023-2024 **\$216,500**

Grants by
Curricular
Area
2005-2024



Total Grants Awarded
2023-2024 **28**



BUILDING TOGETHER: West Campus Plaza



Your investment, joined together with the incredible support of our caring community, helped the Ladue Education Foundation & Alumni Association achieve its capital campaign goal of \$350,000 to fund the West Campus Plaza project, in partnership with Ladue Schools. The Plaza is located near the athletic fields at the Fifth Grade Center and construction completed in summer

2024 provides much-needed improvements including a covered area with permanent seating, restrooms, drinking fountains, as well as donor and coaches recognition plaques. Coach plaques provided a source of funding for the campaign.

In addition to a strong partnership with the Ladue School District, and the Board of Education, David and

Karin Caito went above and beyond to bring this project to fruition with a leadership gift of \$150,000.

"David and I were thrilled to support the West Campus Plaza project," said Karin Caito. "Both our boys are involved in Ladue sports. We loved the idea of contributing to a project that will complement Ladue's phenomenal athletic program."



Lynsey Porter and the field hockey team

COACH'S CORNER

Many thanks to our donors and groups of donors who contributed \$5,000 to honor their favorite coach. More than 20 coaches, past and present, including Ladue alumni, are featured on the Coach's Corner plaque. Plaques are mounted in the covered portion of the West Campus Plaza and at Ladue Horton Watkins High School outside the Nielson Gym.



Alums honoring Coach Jim "Wags" Wagner



The West Campus Plaza accommodates the athletes and thousands of spectators that visit the two multi-purpose turf fields, baseball and softball fields, and tennis courts on the campus annually. The West Campus is also home to the Becky Sauerbrunn Soccer Field, named after the 2003 Ladue Schools alumna and former U.S. Women's National Soccer Team captain, Olympian, and activist.



SPORTS ADVERTISING PARTNERS

Please join the LEF in applauding our West Campus Plaza Sports Advertising Partners:

BRINTON VISION
THE CAITO FAMILY
COMMERCE BANK

DIELMANN SOTHEY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY
HOGAN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES

MERCY HEALTH
THE POWELL LAW FIRM
SUMNER LAW GROUP

For more information on becoming a sports advertising partner, please contact lef@ladueschools.net.



The Caito Family

2023-24 Grant Programs

Thanks to your commitment to go Above and Beyond for All Students, the Ladue Education Foundation awarded more than \$216,000 in support of innovative grants and enrichment programs—inspiring experiential learning and critical thinking, as well as engaging and strengthening our communities. These are some of the 28 grants awarded in the 2023-24 school year.

STARLAB

Ladue students at all levels have the opportunity to experience out-of-this-world learning in a Starlab Portable Planetarium. A digital projection system within an inflatable seven-meter dome brings astronomy, geography, and physics lessons to life, cultivating excitement for science within the school and district learning community.

“The Starlab project will ensure that students will have access to an enriched academic opportunity well beyond the district’s budget; it will also be an opportunity that few other districts and schools in the region could provide, making it a truly exceptional Ladue experience.”

— JUSTIN RAGLAND,
PHYSICS, LHWHS



SPOEDE OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

A rebuilt outdoor learning center at Spoede Elementary features Missouri native plants harvested throughout the school year. Sturdy, long-lasting, covered space for lessons and shaded spots under trees for reading and enjoying nature complete the space. These gardens also serve as a living laboratory for environmental education, allowing students to learn firsthand about sustainability, conservation, and ecological principles. Through activities including composting and studying native plants, students develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world and their role in preserving it. The LEF funded multiple outdoor learning spaces throughout the district.



BLACK BOX THEATER LIGHTING CONSOLE

LHWHS students now have greater access to state-of-the-art equipment for enhanced learning and after-school performances following the purchase of a new ETC Ion Xe lighting console for the Black Box Theater.

“There are many students that leave my program and go on to work in professional theater. To set them up for success, we need to use standard professional equipment. This console will allow me to teach those skills.”

— JESSICA WINNINGHAM
THEATER, LHWHS



BOBBY NORFOLK STORYTELLING

Conway Elementary students experienced a presentation by Emmy Award winning performer Bobby Norfolk of traditional West African and Caribbean stories. Norfolk’s storytelling weaves together traditional African cultural values to increase student engagement in the topics of Black history, diversity, equity, and inclusion; and is an enhancement to our Language Arts curriculum.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE

With the acquisition of handheld computer numerical routers, students at LHWHS can build everything from robots, custom woodworking joinery, furniture, musical instruments, signage, trophies, and more. This technology provides an on-ramp for all students to build engineering solutions, utilize 3D modeling, and learn employable 21st century skills. Special thanks to the Josh Seidel Memorial Foundation for funding this grant.

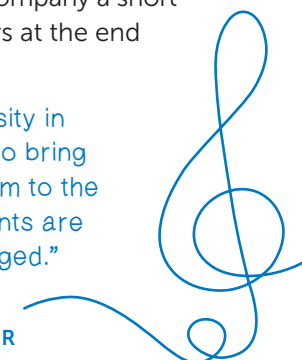


CASEY’S CREATIVE STUDIO

LMS Music Educator Monica Casey expanded opportunities for Ladue special needs students to express themselves freely in a small group setting. The program is uniquely designed to incorporate literacy components and grow understanding of music as a language. In addition to singing, playing instruments, and dancing, students in Casey’s Creative Studio write lyrics and music to accompany a short play performed for their peers at the end of the semester.

“Thank you for your generosity in providing the grant money to bring my Enhanced Music Program to the students at LMS. The students are having fun and are so engaged.”

— MONICA CASEY
MUSIC EDUCATOR



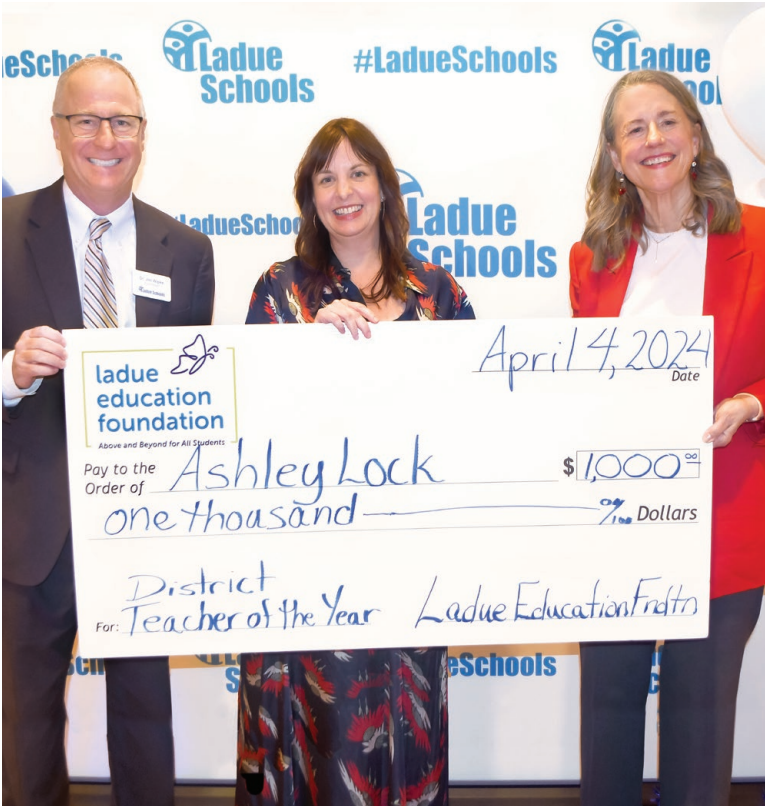


Teacher of the Year: Ashley Lock

The LEF celebrated Ashley Lock, a LHWHS social studies teacher as the Ladue School’s Teacher of the Year at the annual district Employee Recognition Night. In appreciation for her exemplary achievements, the LEF presented Ashley with an award of \$1,000.

Reflecting on her teaching experience, Ashley shared a story about a student who received a scholarship for an essay contest related to Black History studies. “They won an honorable mention award for their reflection on the importance of seeing yourself in the curriculum. I’ve never seen a smile so big or a student more surprised by their success. From that moment, the student asked me about four-year colleges, scholarships, and career opportunities. I knew their success had changed them as a person. It gave them the confidence to thrive, and I can’t wait to see what they do.”

Please join the LEF in acknowledging the dedication of our Ladue School District teachers, administrators, and staff who go *Above and Beyond for All Students*—many also “Pay it Forward,” by donating to the LEF via our payroll deduction program.



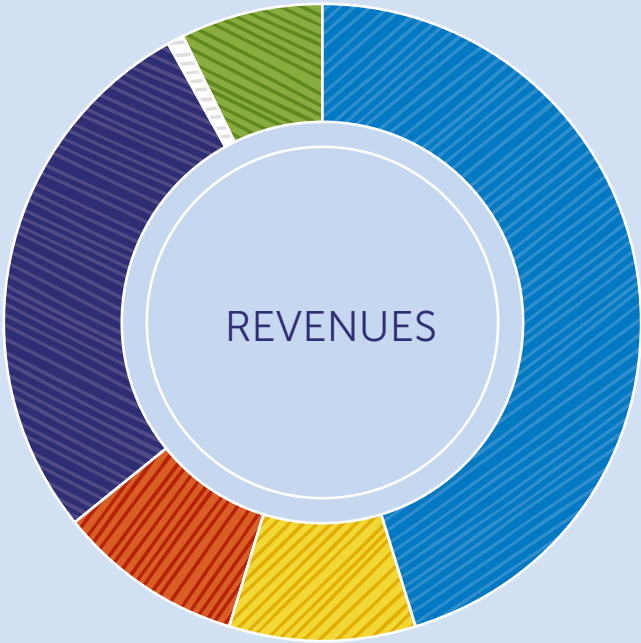
Construction Innovations: Tiny Home Program



Practical Arts teacher Bill Edwards submitted a grant for equipment to launch a new Tiny Home program at LHWHS. Thanks in part to a generous donation from the Audi family; students will learn basic construction skills in carpentry, the use of power tools, all aspects of proper job site safety, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, planning and scheduling, estimating, blueprint reading, and CAD design using new Shaper Origin Technology. The Tiny Home will expose students to the construction/installation of foundations, framing, insulation, decking, sheathing, siding, roofing, finish carpentry, furniture design, kitchen/bathroom build-out, and NOAA home inspection requirements.

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024



Revenues & Support

Donations	\$276,976
Community Events, net of related costs	58,351
Contributed Services	56,525
Capital Campaign Contributions	170,203
Endowment Contributions	855
Naming Rights	43,615
Total Support and Revenue	\$606,525



Program Services

Capital Campaign	\$100,000
CAPS/Catalyst Program Staff	34,000
Teacher Grants	89,801
District-Wide Grants	78,288
Teacher of the Year Award	1,000
Community Outreach/Resource Coordination	24,017
Total Program Services	\$327,107

Supportive Services

Management and General	\$82,589
Fundraising and Development	80,542
Total Supportive Services	\$163,131
Total Net Functional Expenses	\$490,238

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	
Unrestricted Funds	\$515,963
Net Assets: Temporarily Restricted	
CAPS/Catalyst Program	\$1,204,187
Capital Campaign	203,146
Net Assets: Permanently Restricted	
Endowment	\$135,161
Total Net Assets	\$2,058,457

2023-24 Supporters

Donor lists are updated/accurate as of 6/30/2024. We apologize for any errors or omissions.



The Catalyst Program is funded by the LEF and provides an innovative approach to education designed to give high school students hands-on, real-world experiences.

Gifts of \$10,000+

Themetta Berry
David & Karin Caito
Commerce Bank
Dielmann Sotheby's
International Realty,
Andy Dielmann '72
Hogan Transportation
The Josh Seidel
Memorial Foundation
Lynn Rubenstein Wallis '64
S. M. Wilson & Co.
Scott '86 & Nicky Stern
Brent & Leslie Sumner
Ann VonAllmen
Orrin "Sage" Wightman IV '87

Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Nathan & Marion Lochmoeller '93
Schulte
Victoria Spielberg
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The Wallis Family
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Carol Weisman '67

Gifts of \$2,500 - \$4,999

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Dr. Benjamin & Jill Crane

Billy Greenblatt '72
Dr. Robert & Elana Hacker
Bruce Hayes '72
Michael '77 & Kathy Karasick
Ken & Leslie Kotiza
LHWHS Class of 1973
Elizabeth S. Little '84
Grant & Pamela Miller
Robert '87 & Jodi Minkler
Howard & Marissa Rosen
Saint Louis Bank

Gifts of \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Tom & Angie Ackerman
Ryan & Hayley Arnold
Brad & Lauren Beigle
Josh & Nannette Bell
Brandon & Andrea Bezzant
Andy & Donna Bresler
Mark '66 & Susan Bronson
The Ann K. & Douglas S. Brown
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Dentistry for Children
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Aaron & Sarah Early
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Warticovschi
Amanda Wohlfahrt

Gifts of \$500 - \$999

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LHWHS Parent Association
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Dr. Jim & Jennifer Wipke

Gifts of \$100 - \$249

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David & Eileen Eskin
Eugene H. Fahrenkrog '64
Nique Fajors & Faiza Zarroug
Norman Farber '66
Jimmy Fein '66



"Our partnership with the LEF has continued to grow as we work together to strengthen our student experience and build upon our Ladue School District's traditions, culminating in the completion of the West Campus Plaza."

— DR. JIM WIPKE
SUPERINTENDENT,
LADUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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LEF grant for Therapy Dog Program at LMS.



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Gifts of up to \$99

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In Honor of

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Jono Robbins '98
Dr. Frank Robbins &
Carol Weisman '67
Michael West '24
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In Memory of

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Ladue Alumni Association

It is my great pleasure to share how our amazing alumni family stays connected and creates extraordinary opportunities for our students.

In January, more than 30 professionals (mainly LHWHS alumni) spanning 16 different industries, served as mentors to 150 LHWHS students who participated in Career Day. Students had the chance to learn about various careers, educational paths, and the skills needed to pursue internship opportunities.

I hope you will also join me in thanking the alumni featured during the Legacy Speaker Series. 20 members of the LMS Student African American Brotherhood chapter attended four presentations throughout the second half of the 2023-24 school year, each focused on different leadership principles.



Suzy Furlong '77 Alumni Mentorship Program Chair with LMS students

If you'd like more information about how you can become involved, I invite you to visit the official Ladue Alumni Association page at laduefoundation.org/alumni. Many thanks for the multitude of ways you support the Ladue School District and stay engaged with our alumni family.



Sincerely,

Liz Little '84

Ladue Education Foundation & Alumni Association
Alumni Council President



Please join us for the
second annual Ladue
Alumni Golf Tournament
on August 4, 2025!

Follow us on Facebook—
Ladue Horton Watkins High
School Alumni—for happy hours
and other activities.

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Above and Beyond for All Students



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Help us continue to support Ladue Schools in providing more experiences and opportunities by donating at laduefoundation.org.



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Follow Ladue Education Foundation & Alumni Association on social media to see our latest news.



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