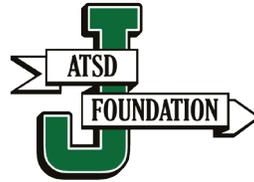


# Adams Township School District Foundation, Inc.

Fall 2016

*A Heritage of  
Achievement*



*Providing  
opportunities for  
future generations*

Check out our website at: [www.adams.k12.mi.us](http://www.adams.k12.mi.us)

## Superintendent's Message and Foundation Update

It is an exciting time to be part of the Adams Township School District. This year both South Range Elementary and Jeffers High School experienced an increase in student enrollment. As a district we have experienced steady growth over the past five years. This can be attributed to the confidence our community has with the school district, new opportunities for students to explore, and the excellent staff we have in place. I can assure you that we will continue to be diligent in providing your children with the best education in the surrounding area. As a district we have a long-standing tradition of working with all students in academically preparing them for the workforce or college. This tradition is ongoing and will continue to be emphasized.

John and Ruanne Opie continue to commit their time and resources to the Adams Township School District. Recently, they funded the purchase of all new computer equipment for teachers at Jeffers High School. This equipment will allow our staff to fully implement the technology that is available to enhance your child's education. John and Ruanne also increased the amount of the Ruth L. Jose Scholarship, which is awarded to four seniors that plan to attend Michigan Technological University. The Ruth L. Jose Scholarship was increased from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars to each of the four, qualifying Jeffers High School senior candidates. We are fortunate and appreciative of the longstanding support and confidence John and Ruanne have for this district.

Throughout my time here in the district, I continue to be amazed at the support this community has for our schools. It is without

question that together we have carved a special place for our students to become successful individuals. I often experience former students stopping by my office to give an update on the exciting happenings within their careers and family. As I say to them on graduation day, we will be forever linked by our common experiences.

Please consider becoming part of shaping that experience and donate to the Adams Township School District Foundation. All of the money raised is given directly back to the school to enhance and expand academic programming. Your gift can be designated to any of the following categories: trades, music, arts or scholarships. The school district and the Foundation recognize and appreciate your support and commitment to the future generations within the Adams Township School District.

*Sincerely, Tim Keteri  
Superintendent*



(Left to Right) John Opie, Cole Ruohonen, Jason Lehto, Kurt Halonen, Ruanne Opie

## Introducing Jeffers High School Principal

Hello, my name is Steve Lishinski, and I am the new principal at Jeffers High School. I assumed the position from Mr. Michael Benda who retired after a long tenure with the Adams Township School District. I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to take over for such a respected and distinguished individual.



I have been employed by the Adams Township School District for the last eight years, primarily working with our special needs students in the Resource Room at Jeffers High School. I have also served as our district's Special Education Director for the past three years and as Athletic Director for the last two years.

My wife Nikki is also a member of the "Adams Family", as a seven year veteran of the district, teaching third grade at South Range Elementary School. Nikki and I have two daughters, Edy (4) and Elli (2), who will both be Jets someday!

As you know, our district is in a great place. Our academic programming is expanding and our enrollment is growing. Our rich tradition of providing a quality, cutting-edge education to our students is ever-adapting to the needs of society. I have no doubt that our students will continue to graduate from Jeffers High School with a skill set that allows them to be successful in all of their endeavors. I am proud of our community support, our tradition of excellence, our students' work ethic and of the great work that our teachers do everyday.

Above all, I am proud to be a Jet. Please stop by and see me anytime!

*Sincerely,  
Steve Lishinski*

## Farewell Letter

It has indeed been an honor and privilege for Nancy and me to have been affiliated with the Adams Township School District Foundation these past several years. We have seen the scholarship portion of our program grow significantly, the funding of teacher and student inspired programs in both the elementary and high school levels be helped financially, and last but not least, the establishment of the vocational education center. We have been supported by generous benefactors, enthusiastic administrators and faculty members, a grateful Board of Education and, above all, hard working fellow foundation board members.

Our foundation board has grown to fifteen members. Please support them in the future as our trades program expands and school enrollment increases. We confidently leave our positions as Treasurer and President in more than willing and able hands, supported by an enthusiastic Board. Again we say "Thank You" to all as the Jeffers Jets soar into a positive future--one hundred sixteen years and counting!

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Frank C. and Nancy M. Rugani  
Past President and Treasurer*



## Foundation President Update

The 2016-2017 academic school year is well under way and the Foundation supported trades and cosmetology section classes are filled to capacity.

Looking into the future, the Foundation has made a commitment to support a new Culinary Center. Preliminary estimates to create the center from an existing class room are at \$150,000. In May, Paul and Margaret Karpinen issued a challenge to match donations made to the culinary center project of \$50,000. James ('61) and Susan Anttonen recently made a major donation to the center, and many other smaller donations have been made in the three months since the foundation announced the school district's latest endeavor. I am happy to say that we are over half of the way to achieving our \$150,000 goal. Thank you to all who have contributed to this project.

This skill based vision of the Foundation and Adams Township School District Board will allow students to

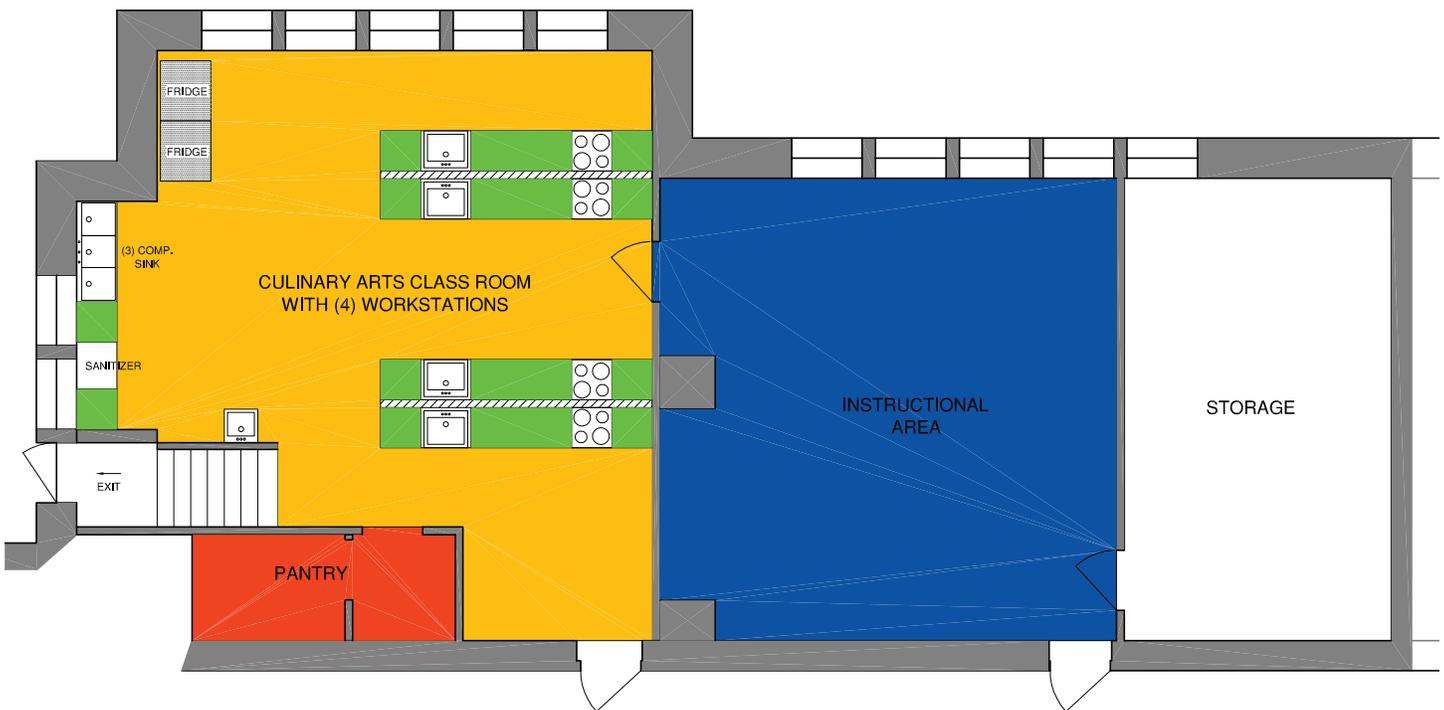
explore a career in the culinary pathway and introduce the value of healthy nutrition and lifestyle. Some of the food students will be working with will be grown in the on campus greenhouse supported by the Foundation.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Dr. Frank Rugani ('58), Nancy (Trudgeon) Rugani ('58) and Mary (Bergdahl) Lehto ('57) who have served on the Foundation Board and recently resigned . Their years of dedicated service to the Foundation and their offering to help us in the future is greatly appreciated.

We will miss you all.

In closing I would like to thank Ron and Sue Antilla, Dave Stimac and the Hyatt Regency Green Bay for their gifts raffled at the spring Foundation dinner.

*Marty Iskra*  
President



## Karpinen Challenge

In the letter written by Foundation President Marty Iskra there is a mention of \$50,000 pledge challenge by Paul and Margaret Karpinen. The Karpinen's have pledged to match on a dollar-per-dollar basis all gifts of money designated specifically to the culinary project.

With over fifty percent of matched funds to date we need your help to provide this wonderful opportunity for the students of Jeffers High School. This culinary project, as with all other Foundation funded projects, are completely funded before the project is authorized to begin. The Foundation is anticipating the project to be funded by the end of the 2016 - 2017 school year. With your help, you will be part of allowing next year's students to experience another learning pathway.

Please consider checking the appropriate box with your donation with the enclosed donation card.

## Ms. Jena Pera - Middle School Geometry

Seventh grade Transition Math students will take part in a geometry project in which they create stained glass windows to demonstrate their knowledge of geometry concepts that they have learned in class. One of the main benefits of this project, sponsored by the Foundation, is that it provides a unique and creative way for all students to demonstrate their mastery of the geometry that they have learned.



## Letter of Appreciation

On behalf my seventh and eighth grade English and social studies students, I would like to thank the Foundation for their generous gift of a set of white boards for my classroom. One might think that in today's technological society that writing on the board is "old news." It isn't; I can assure you that students still love to write on the board.

Having the boards in my classroom is beneficial in many ways. They work great in many review lessons for social studies. Something as simple as putting a blank map of the United States on the projection screen and having students write the name of the state that I point to is fun and helpful. Students can review their geography skills, but they feel as if they are playing a game, and they really get into it. It's also great to use the boards to review key people, events, terms, and ideas.



In English and writing class, students use the boards often in the practice activities before they get assigned their homework. Using these boards saves on paper and time, not only for the students but also for me. Finally, when students have their "own" board to write on, it is less threatening for them. They don't necessarily have to show their responses to the rest of the class.

Ever since I was lucky enough to be hired as a teacher at Jeffers High School, I have said that I am proud to be part of the Adams family and that I bleed green. It's because of the community, alumni, and organizations such as the Foundation that make this small school such a big success. Thank you again for the gift of the white boards and for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students.

*Sincerely,  
Cheryl Ruohonen*



*Freda Bukovich (Janie's mother), family members, Zumba friends, and Janie's husband, Al (Butch) Kommes, JHS Class of 1971.*

### South Range Elementary Buddy Benches

This past summer two Buddy Benches were donated to South Range Elementary in memory of Janie (Bukovich) Kommes, JHS Class of 1970. Janie was actively involved in a local Zumba group, and after her passing, her "exercise friends" wanted to do something special in her memory. Buddy Benches are a simple idea to help eliminate loneliness and encourage friendships on the playground. The idea was actually developed by an elementary age student and has spread across the country. It allows others to meet and play with old or new friends. It's a way of showing caring, sharing and respect. We would like to thank Janie's friends and family for thinking of us. Not only are the benches a great way to honor Janie's memory but they are also a wonderful way for helping our school to foster spreading the message of inclusion and kindness.

*Sincerely, Kim Harris  
Principal*



*SR Elementary students using the Buddy Bench.*

## Letter of Appreciation Handwriting Without Tears

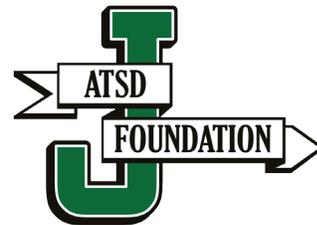
Thanks to the generosity of the Adams Township School District Foundation, the kindergarten and first grade teachers are using a program called Handwriting Without Tears to teach handwriting this year. It is a fun program that combines music, hands-on tools, and videos to assist young children in developing essential handwriting skills. Each lesson takes only 15 minutes to complete, and the teachers have been pleased with how their students have responded to this instruction. Adams Township, Jeffers High School students and alumni have long been known for the beautiful handwriting they possess, and this program is helping our young people continue that tradition.

Another learning tool being used is Scholastic News.

Scholastic News is much more than a weekly magazine that provides science and social studies information. It is aligned with our academic standards, which cover a number of reading and language arts concepts. Moreover, there are videos, vocabulary, and game components that assure the students get a clear understanding of the topics covered. This year, thanks to the Adams Township School District Foundation, all students in grades K through 6 are receiving a weekly magazine.

Thank you Foundation members for providing this valuable tool for our classrooms.

*Sincerely, Susan Destrampe  
Kindergarten Teacher*



Since its founding, the ATSDF has given scholarships in the following amounts to Jeffer's High School graduates.

2004 - \$35,800	2011 - \$85,730
2005 - \$35,000	2012 - \$79,632
2006 - \$44,050	2013 - \$93,054
2007 - \$43,400	2014 - \$93,954
2008 - \$45,000	2015 - \$92,706
2009 - \$44,700	2016 - \$89,200
2010 - \$81,300	

## Trades Projects and Update

The building trades students have started the school year with a sauna project in Misery Bay. Our trades building was utilized for some of the pre-construction work to expedite the work that needed to be completed at the job site. We were able to use our construction trailer for storing and transporting supplies while traveling between Painesdale and Misery Bay. We expect to complete the sauna project by the end of October this year.

After completion of our sauna project students will return to the trades center and begin construction of storage barns. The storage barns are an excellent learning project for students to experience the basics of construction. Students have built modules in which different areas of construction are taught: masonry, electrical wiring, plumbing and welding skills.

The students and I are really enjoying the new facility and tools and consider it a privilege to have such an extraordinary learning opportunity. Students attending the Adams Township School District indeed have the opportunity to be part of a robust training program, thanks to the generous donation of all that have contributed, notably John and Ruanne Opie.

*Thank you for your support,  
Gary Miller*

