

State College Area School District Education

# FOUNDATION



## UPCOMING MAROON & GRAY DINNER PROCEEDS WILL EXPAND STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

A grant from the Mardi Lowry McDonough '87 Student Opportunity Fund & Grant Program helps to fund State High's Unified Bocce Program and other innovative projects

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IRON KETTLE**

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## MAROON & GRAY DINNER RETURNS FOR 2022

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I invite you to join us to celebrate how a community can make a difference.

This year's Maroon & Gray Dinner—the first after a 2 year pandemic hiatus—will serve many purposes.

Together, we will honor Mardi Lowry McDonough '87, longtime SCASD educator who made an incredible impact on students and lost her battle with cancer in June 2020. We will induct our Maroon & Gray Society class of 2020 and recognize their accomplishments (I'm thrilled to report that we recently added Rudy Burruss to our group of honorees, read more on page 6). And, finally, we will honor you, our strong community of supporters who have been so generous to the various initiatives of the Education Foundation: student and teacher success, student mental health and well-being, and more.

Details are included here and on our website [scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org). I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Michelle Frisco, President

### OUR MISSION

THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

### OUR VISION

AN ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT CHALLENGES AND INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO REACH HIS OR HER FULL POTENTIAL.

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The official registration and financial information of State College Area School District Education Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY DINNER

JOIN US FOR A TRULY SPECIAL EVENT TO OFFICIALLY INDUCT OUR 2020 HONOREES AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87, NAMESAKE OF THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY FUND & GRANT PROGRAM.



Tickets are available through May 13 at [scasdfoundation.org/event/2022-banquet/](https://scasdfoundation.org/event/2022-banquet/).

### THE 2020 CLASS OF MAROON & GRAY SOCIETY HONOREES



**Joyce Lee**  
Retired Educator



**Thomas Gentzel '69**  
Retired Executive  
Director & CEO,  
National School  
Board Association



**The Late  
Ron Pavlechko**  
Educator & Coach



**Mark Roland '91**  
U.S. Army Special  
Forces



**Dr. Jane Snowdon '77**  
Deputy Chief Science  
Officer, Science  
Operations,  
IBM Watson Health



**Masi Asare '96**  
A Rising Leader in  
Theatre



**Rudy Burruss**  
Coach, Special  
Education  
Paraprofessional,  
PA State Education  
Association, ESP  
Region President



**1976 State  
Champion Boys  
Soccer Team**

## CELEBRATE YOUR IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Be part of this exciting event by becoming a sponsor or advertiser. These opportunities are open to businesses, families and individuals who want to make a difference for students. All proceeds from the dinner go toward the **MARDI LOWRY MCDONOUGH '87 STUDENT OPPORTUNITY & GRANT FUND**. With your sponsorship or ad, you can:

- Promote your business or organization
- Celebrate an honoree, an alumnus, your student or a favorite teacher or coach



- Recognize teams, clubs and activities
- Lend your family's support

The SCASD Education Foundation is eager to gather with its generous community for this year's dinner to:

- Induct the Maroon & Gray Society honorees of 2020
- Celebrate student success and educator innovation
- Honor the life of Mardi Lowry McDonough '87, namesake of the Student Opportunity & Grant Fund

To be part of the Maroon & Gray Dinner as a sponsor or advertiser, complete your form or download it at [scasdfoundation.org](http://scasdfoundation.org), or contact Executive Director Paul Olivett at (814) 883-8067 or at [pgo11@scasd.org](mailto:pgo11@scasd.org).

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Support SCASD Education Foundation with a sponsorship for the event.

#### PLATINUM SPONSOR – \$10,000

- Prominent recognition on front cover of event brochure and all marketing materials and promotion
- Full page ad
- 10 Person table with priority location
- Signage at the event
- Recognition by speaker at the event

#### MAROON SPONSOR – \$7,500

- Listing in event brochure
- 1/2 page ad
- 10 person table with priority location
- Signage at the event
- Recognition by speaker at event

#### GRAY SPONSOR – \$5,000

- Listing in event brochure
- 1/4 page ad
- 10 person table
- Recognition by speaker at event
- Signage at event

#### EVENT PROGRAM ADVERTISING

- Full Page - \$1,000
  - 1/2 Page - \$500
  - 1/4 Page - \$250
- \*Provide camera-ready ad copy

*For more information, contact Paul Olivett at [pgo11@scasd.org](mailto:pgo11@scasd.org) or (814) 883-8067*

## MAROON & GRAY DINNER PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT “MARDI’S FUND”

In 2016, the State College Area School District Education Foundation established the Student Opportunity Fund to provide financial resources for grant awards to teachers and staff. Since then, the Education Foundation has awarded educators with funds for projects that benefit students across the district in academic and extracurricular opportunities.

Upon the passing of longtime SCASD educator Mardi Lowry McDonough, State High '87, and parent to two State High alumni, her family partnered with the Education Foundation to honor her memory by permanently adding her name to the fund.

“THIS YEAR, THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION HAS CHOSEN MARDI’S FUND AS THE BENEFICIARY OF PROCEEDS FROM THE MAROON & GRAY DINNER TO HELP GROW THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT ON PROJECTS THAT DIRECTLY BENEFIT CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS ACROSS EVERY SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT.”

“In recognition of her own experience, the experiences of her daughters Colleen and Grace, her exemplary career as a teacher, and her honorable service to teachers and the community, the Education Foundation board is privileged to name this fund and program in Mardi’s honor,” said former Board President Chris Buchignani.

“This year, the Education Foundation has chosen Mardi’s fund as the beneficiary of proceeds from the Maroon & Gray Dinner to help grow the impact of community support on projects that directly benefit current and future students across every school in the district,” said current Board President Michelle Frisco.

**The board is delighted to welcome many members of Mardi’s family for the dinner this year and looks forward to honoring her life and her contributions to generations of SCASD students.**

**If you are unable to attend the dinner, donations can be made at [scasdfoundation.org/donate](http://scasdfoundation.org/donate).** ●



*Mardi Lowry McDonough '87*

PAGES 7-13 CELEBRATE THE LATEST INNOVATIVE, TEACHER-LED PROJECTS BEING FUNDED BY STUDENT OPPORTUNITY GRANTS. READ MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR DONATIONS TO THIS FUND ARE MAKING AN IMPACT.



## RUDY BURRUSS: "I WANT EVERY CHILD TO KNOW HOW MUCH THEY MATTER"

*Congratulations to Rudy for his recent nomination and approval to the upcoming class of Maroon & Gray Society inductees.*

It's 1988, and Rudy Burruss is starring in a Reebok commercial. He's the Wizard, playing up the middle for the Harlem Globetrotters, wearing the fiercest pair of Reebok hightops on the court. He doesn't have his signature dreads — yet — but his magnetic personality is immediately recognizable.

Rudy says that those days of traveling with the Harlem Globetrotters were exciting and fun, but his biggest memories are not of the places he visited, or of the crowds. "It was the kids," he said. "I got to be with kids for two hours every night, and hear their excitement and have fun with them. I realized how much I loved that, and that I wanted more than just those two hours. I wanted to spend every day with them."

Eventually his travels brought him to State College where he applied for a job as therapeutic staff support (TSS) to assist children with special needs. TSS workers are employed outside the school, and are supposed to *only* help the child they've been hired to assist, but Rudy says that the teacher in his classroom was an "all hands on deck" kind of teacher and kept asking him to jump in to help others.

Again, he wanted more. "Instead of just helping one kid, I could be in the school helping a lot of them," he said. So he became a special ed paraprofessional — a job he'd hold for the next 21 years. A job he calls 'a godsend.'

"I've been able to work with these kids who learn differently, and make sure that they are accepted in school, and they are socialized. I am the one who is 100% real with them, and tell them that I value them. I make sure other kids understand that they are just like everyone else, and that they matter."

"State College Area School District has the best Special Education Program ever," he added. "I've been to other schools and talked to the kids. It's just not the same. Everyone cares here. We're not doing it to get rich — we really love working with these kids."

With the same drive that pushed him on the basketball court, Rudy found himself rising within paraprofessionals, first in the local union, then at the state level. He soon found himself involved at a national level. In 2015, he was elected as National Education Association (NEA) State Director, where he lobbies on the behalf of Pennsylvania students. In his new

role as ESP Region President, he represents educational support staff like janitors, secretaries, paraprofessionals, bus drivers and nurses aides from 453 schools across the state.

"When I was elected last April, I knew that it would take me out of the classroom, but didn't know how much I would miss being in school," he said. "I miss being with the kids most of all."

Just as he was adjusting to his new job away from the kids he loves, he was diagnosed with not one, but two kinds of cancer. It's a diagnosis he's fighting, with his new wife Theresa beside him, and his community surrounding him.

A gofundme set up in his honor has more than doubled its goal and is still growing. The girls' basketball team hosted a fundraiser game for him. "Holy cow," he says. "I never expected this level of support. I looked at the list of people who have given, and I just cried."

"I never thought I had the impact that I've had — I just wanted to be good at what I did — a black man who did it the right way. I didn't know I made that kind of impact."

"When I was first diagnosed, someone told me to buy a basket to hold the cards I'd get in the mail. A basket! I need a big trunk to hold all the cards I've gotten! I just can't even ... it's amazing."

Today, Rudy is in Collegeville, about 40 minutes from Philadelphia. He's just minutes away from the medical center where he gets his daily cancer treatments. "The people are fantastic," he says. "But I miss State College."

He has advice for this year's grads: "Treat people the way that you want to be treated. Not what you think you are entitled to, or what you think you deserve, but treat people the way you actually want to be treated. I started that early. I made a point to speak to every person. Kill them with kindness. That would be the one thing I keep sharing with kids. If you don't want to be treated that way, then treat them differently. It makes a difference." ●



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS PRIORITIZE SPACES FOR SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING



In addition to raising funds for student mental health and well-being through the Mental Health Matters Fund, the Education Foundation helps to advance individual projects that promote mindfulness and support focus and positive behaviors through Student Opportunity grants. Three projects were awarded funds during this most recent round:

### MINDFULNESS ROOM RESOURCES AT FERGUSON TOWNSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

“Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, we’ve seen an increased need for social and emotional learning. Stress and anxiety create obstacles to learning, but mindfulness can help. Mindfulness is ‘paying attention to what is happening in the present moment,’” explained D’Anne Saylor, Instructional Support Teacher at Ferguson Township Elementary.

“Awareness is the first step in any social emotional learning. If students aren’t aware of difficult emotions, they can’t learn to manage them,” she continued.

Executive function skills, including working memory, flexible thinking, self-control and handling emotions, are not fully developed in children, but research indicates that mindfulness practices can strengthen neural pathways to help develop executive function skills.

“At Ferguson Township, we have been teaching mindfulness practices to our students for several years. Our students report that mindfulness helps calm their body, focus their mind, control their emotions, and helps them be more happy,” D’Anne said. “It helps students recognize and manage strong emotions so that they are happy and ready to learn.”

The project involves creating a dedicated mindfulness room. Open for individual, small group and whole class instruction, the cozy mindful space will be filled with mindfulness resources for teachers and students. It will have comfortable seating, be esthetically pleasing and provide an atmosphere in which one would relax immediately upon entering the room.

“When students are stressed and anxious, they can’t focus their attention on learning and they do not choose to engage in extracurricular activities. Stress and adverse childhood experiences, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, trigger a “fight,

flight, freeze” response which cuts off their ability to think, learn and socially engage with others. Mindfulness, including trauma informed practices, retrain the brain to handle stress and difficult emotions so that they can feel calm, safe and ready to learn and engage,” D’Anne said.

The grant will be used to purchase items for a mindfulness room, including intervention tools to support mindfulness practices for children of all ages and all social emotional development levels and instructional materials to teach children about their brain and their stress response.

Ferguson Township Elementary School has a Mindfulness Committee that is a subcommittee of the School Wide Positive Behavior Committee. The Mindfulness Committee will work together to survey teachers and students at the beginning of the year and the end of the year to collect their observations and feedback on the Mindfulness Room. The goal will be to educate and support teachers and students to decrease the number of students who exhibit at risk internalizing behaviors and externalizing behaviors.

“AT EASTERLY PARKWAY, ALL CLASSROOM AND WORK AREAS ARE FULL. MANY STUDENTS NEED TO STEP OUT OF THE CLASSROOM THROUGHOUT THE DAY TO DECOMPRESS. SINCE THERE IS NOT A CLASSROOM SPACE AVAILABLE FOR THIS, WE NEEDED TO THINK CREATIVELY.”

### EASTERLY PARKWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CREATING A CALMING CORNER

What is a Calming Corner? A quiet area equipped with soft furnishings and soothing materials to help a student de-escalate when upset and provide opportunities to practice de-escalation strategies. The space can also be used for small groups to meet

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS... *Continued from page 7*

for reteaching of Second Step strategies or counseling lessons.

“The central purpose of a calming corner is to help students regulate their emotions,” said Instructional Coach April Rizzo. “The goal would be to help students reduce negative sensory input and provide calming visual, auditory, and tactile experiences to help students destress. The need for a space such as this is important now more than ever. At Easterly Parkway, all classroom and work areas are full. Many students in our population need to step out of the classroom throughout the day to decompress. Since there is not a classroom space available for this, we needed to think creatively. We have located a “nook” on the second floor that, with our partitions for privacy, could serve as this calming corner.”

The space will include bean bag chairs, mindfulness books and activities, fidgets, yoga cards, relaxation CDs and other items.



*A sensory walkway at Easterly Parkway Elementary*

### SENSORY WALKWAYS AT SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY

Maintaining focus in a classroom for extended periods of time can be challenging for many K-5 students. Research indicates that physical activity activates the brain, improves cognitive functioning, and is associated with improved academic performance (Donnelly & Lambourne, 2011). Likewise, exercise increases blood flow to the brain thus enhancing learning, and movement also reduces stress and anxiety and helps reset children for learning.

These facts are the basis for two sensory walkways with guided movements for children to follow, which will be in-

stalled at Spring Creek Elementary.

“Many of our school’s teachers regularly incorporate brain breaks throughout the day in their classrooms. However, there are many students who would benefit from an additional place outside of the classroom to move, wriggle, and work off excess energy,” said Paraprofessional Kelly Fragin. “Similarly, students dealing with sensory processing challenges, issues of anger management, or students who struggle with self-regulation often need a place to step away from the classroom to take a deep breath, relax, and calm their minds and bodies.”

**“MANY OF OUR SCHOOL’S TEACHERS REGULARLY INCORPORATE BRAIN BREAKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY IN THEIR CLASSROOMS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY STUDENTS WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN ADDITIONAL PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM TO MOVE, WRIGGLE, AND WORK OFF EXCESS ENERGY.”**

The path is designed by Holly Clay who is a retired special education teacher in Oxford, Mississippi. After posting a viral video which now has 43 million views on Facebook of her students using the path, she began selling them. The paths are “designed by using research based sensory integration therapy techniques to decrease sensory seeking behaviors and increase cognition.” Furthermore, the paths are made using waterproof commercial grade floor film with an adhesive backing allowing for years of use. The path can be split up and specially designed so it can be placed in two separate hallways in the building.

Part two of the project will be an ocean-themed mindfulness room called, “The Aquarium.” Both the sensory walkways and the mindfulness room allow students a place to refocus so that they can return to the classroom for a productive and enjoyable learning experience.

The sensory walkways will provide specifically designated spaces for students (and we hope the adults in the building too) to safely move their bodies and expend excess energy. The mindfulness room (“The Aquarium”), on the other hand, serves as a quiet, relaxing place for students to decompress.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS... *Continued from page 7*

“We purposely and intentionally are giving it a name that is inviting so students will want to go there,” Kelly said. “It is NOT meant as a place of exclusion or punishment, but rather a space for students to practice self-regulating strategies. Through fidget toys, weighted stuffed animals, sensory tubes, relaxing music, and soft lighting, The Aquarium will provide students calming visual, tactile, and auditory stimuli to shift their focus.”

In a classroom, students are often expected to sit and listen quietly, but in a mindfulness room, students can explore their

environment freely. Additionally, providing a place for students to calm down allows for increased learning of other students by eliminating disruptive classroom distractions. Furthermore, having a calming space can reduce the risk of a crisis situation, potentially affecting other students and adults.

The team at Spring Creek has been working with local Boy Scout Josh Fragin on developing designs for the sensory pathways and mindfulness rooms which he will install for his Eagle Scout Project. ●

## ENVIROTHON EXPANDS ON CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH OUTDOOR FIELD EXPERIENCES AND HEALTHY COMPETITION



The Envirothon is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students in grades 9-12 (or ages 14-19) across the United States, Canada, and China. The program incorporates STEM principles—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences. Specifically, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, soil and a 5th topic based on a current environmental issue.



“This year, I have five Environmental Science students who would like to form a team to compete in the Envirothon,” said Environmental Science Teacher Susan Braun. Grant funds awarded this spring from the Foundation will cover the team’s participation in the Centre County competition and the State competition.

“The Envirothon competition is not part of the environmental science budget,” Susan said. “Students in Environmental Science I class would like to expand their knowledge by participating in this competition. This will provide differentiation of the course content by allowing students to delve deeper into environmental topics. These

students are interested in environmental careers and the Envirothon will allow students to work with Centre County and Pennsylvania personnel with careers in this field.”

Study materials are borrowed from Centre County Soil Conservation and PA Game Commission and faculty from Penn State will also provide training to the students at no cost.

“THESE STUDENTS ARE INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS AND THE ENVIROTHON WILL ALLOW STUDENTS TO WORK... WITH PERSONNEL WITH CAREERS IN THIS FIELD.”

Funds will support transportation to an Envirothon Study Day at Lock Haven University and to Centre County’s competition at Bald Eagle State Park, and costs for the State Competition at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, which is an overnight event. If students win the state competition, the PA Envirothon competition will fund participation in the National Competition. ●

## ● STUDENT OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

# CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN ART AT MOUNT NITTANY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Grant funds will help the Mount Nittany Middle School Art Department celebrate the artistic achievements of 150-200 students, including 23 who are members of the National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS).

With the leadership of teachers Nicole Packard, Amy Anderson, and Madison Mock, Mount Nittany MS will host its first ever in-person Art Show in May.

“THE ART DEPARTMENT AT MNMS WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF THE ARTS BY CREATING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART EXHIBITIONS. WE ENVISION THE MNMS ART SHOW BEING AN ANNUAL HIGHLIGHT OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.”

“This cumulative 2021-22 Art Show will engage the school and local community and include student-led art demonstrations and hands on workshops from student members of the NJAHS chapter,” said Nicole. “The students will have a drawing and painting demonstration area with students working on art projects as well as a hands-on workshop space for make-and take-art activities. The NJAHS chapter members will be leading visitors through the process of making marbled paper using traditional techniques.”

The entire MNMS student body and their families will be invited to attend the show and participate in the workshops. Part of the show will be displayed the week prior to the event for students and staff at MNMS to see during school hours. The rest of the show will be hung for the evening event.

“Many students have never attended an art show or been a part of one. This show provides them with the opportunity to see their artwork on display and share in the accomplishments of their peers,” Nicole shared. “The Art department at MNMS would like to increase the visibility of the Arts by creating greater opportunities for art exhibitions. We envision the MNMS Art Show being an annual highlight of each school year. The display materials would be used to showcase student artwork at other events in our building as well, such as the Drama Club productions, Band, Choir and Orchestra concerts, elementary school tours, etc.”

“The MNMS National Junior Art Honors Society students will benefit greatly from playing a role in the coordinating, curating and promoting these exhibits,” she continued. “Students will also plan, prepare and teach the hands-on paper marbling workshop. They will gain a deeper understanding of the paper marbling techniques and then share those techniques with the community during the show.”

Funds will be used towards supplies for demonstrations and art activities (paper marbling) and for display equipment. NJAHS student members will write an article for the National Art Education Association magazine. ●

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WILL CREATE NEW ART AT STATE HIGH

Ann Tarantino is an established artist creating public pieces as well as exhibits in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and locally. She recently completed two community projects at Corl Street Elementary and Sidney Friedman Park. Soon she will also have a project at State High.

“A collaborative exterior mural will be designed and created in collaboration between local artist Ann Tarantino and the entire high school community. Student body, faculty, and staff will be invited to provide input on the final design and to participate in painting it,” said Art teacher art teacher Maure Furmanek. “The project is designed to create and strengthen community and provide the entire school with an engaging experience with the visual arts. This project is realizable on a lean budget. Its modular design means it can be updated or reevaluated as the school community grows and changes.”

The theme will be determined with input from the entire school community and the mural will be abstract in nature, with the chosen theme explored through color, line, shape, and form.

The artist will draw the design to scale on a series of prepared panels and host “community painting days” at the school

(either the Large Group Instruction area or outdoors, weather permitting) over the course of one week. During the painting days, students, faculty, and staff will be invited to participate in painting the mural in one-hour blocks. The mural will then be installed by SCASD Physical Plant staff.

“This piece will hopefully give the students a way to place

“ THIS PIECE WILL HOPEFULLY GIVE THE STUDENTS A WAY TO PLACE THEIR MARK ON THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AND ALLOW THEM TO CONTRIBUTE IN A CREATIVE AND POSITIVE WAY. ”

their mark on their high school experience and allow them to contribute in a creative and positive way,” said Maure. ●



## UNIFIED BOCCE MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT ON SCHOOL COMMUNITY

“In 2018, we were fortunate enough to receive a grant to assist in the development of a Unified Bocce program at the high school,” says Clairen Percival Autistic Support Teacher and a coach for Unified Bocce. “Coaching this team has been an amazing opportunity; over the past four years we have grown from eight student athletes participating to 17 this year, with 16 on the competition roster, achieving our goal when we first started this program. Since Unified Bocce does



not have a source of funding from the district, we are in need of funds to be able to

continue to run the program. I believe that having Unified Bocce at the high school level has had a positive impact on the school community.”

The team was recently awarded a second grant to keep its success and impact going.

Students from any grade are eligible



*Continued on Page 12*

## ● STUDENT OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

# NEW MICROSCOPES WILL MAGNIFY THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM AT GRAYS WOODS ELEMENTARY



New compound monocular microscopes and instructional materials and slides will soon be available to be used in rotations between primary, secondary, gifted, and STEM specials classes at Grays Woods Elementary, thanks to STEM teacher Jessica

Jeffries' vision for how they can enhance the science curriculum as well as provide opportunities for students to practice nonfiction writing.

"There would also be multiple opportunities for nonfiction writing as well as connections to STEM curriculum and our gifted program expectations," Jessica said. "Our science curriculums have all been re-written to emphasize the importance of phenomenon and inquiry. I believe these versatile, easily accessible, and affordable microscopes would provide various opportunities to explore student wonderings throughout the entire year."

All 400 students at the elementary school would have some access to the microscopes which have been reviewed to work well with student Chromebooks and allow for the user to see a digital image of what is on the slide.

"We currently do not have any existing access to this type of educational technology at the elementary level," Jessica continued, making the new technology an even more exciting addition. ●

“OUR SCIENCE CURRICULUMS HAVE ALL BEEN RE-WRITTEN TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PHENOMENON AND INQUIRY. I BELIEVE THESE VERSATILE, EASILY ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE MICROSCOPES WOULD PROVIDE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE STUDENT WONDERINGS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE YEAR.”

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## UNIFIED BOCCE... *Continued from page 7*

to participate in Unified Bocce, and while the team will directly benefit from the grant funding, Clai ren said “the school community as a whole can benefit from seeing and supporting inclusion in action.”

“Having a Unified Bocce program has allowed students with and without disabilities to engage, interact, and compete for their school. It has allowed students to compete in an extracurricular activity that may not have otherwise had the chance to do so,” she continued. “The student-athletes involved in Unified Bocce have participated in activities to promote inclusion in our school community.”

Students in the program also work to draw fan support. “As part of being a Unified Champion School through Special Olympics, we think of creative ways to get fans in the stands at our home matches. Students on the team create videos, posters

and promotional announcements to advertise the program and matches,” Clai ren said.

The newly awarded grant funds will help the team to accomplish these goals:

- Members of the Unified Bocce team being able to play with no cost to them
- Grow the number of fans at our home matches
- Grow awareness and support for inclusion
- Grow opportunities for inclusive youth leadership

In addition, funds will support uniforms, transportation to away competitions, team building activities and, if the team qualifies, transportation and other costs to attend the State Championships in Hershey. ●

## SURVIVOR SCIENCE RESOURCES TO BENEFIT STUDENTS INSIDE & OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



“Department budget money is used for field trips and equipment for the classroom and field, so the grant will support purchasing a library of resources related to my course grade Survivor Science and for use by the Outing Club,” said teacher John Donoughe. Ultimately, about 200 students will benefit from the library.

Survivor Science for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades teaches skills and content essential to survivor scenarios, such as navigation, telling time, water purification, shelter, fire, the psychology of survival and more.

“In Survivor Science the course ends with the Trial By Fire, a Field Trip that tests the skills and knowledge learned throughout the course. Not all students can attend due to medical issues, scheduling conflicts, or the comfort level of their parents/guardians,” said John. “An alternative to participating in Trial By Fire students can complete a project. I want to have resources available with dozens of possibilities that will appeal to students with a variety of interests, skill sets, and access to materials and outdoor spaces. The survival and bushcraft manuals that I’d like to have on hand will fill that need.”



*Mr. Donoughe. Photo by David Galchenko*

John believes the resources will also help students outside the classroom environment. “These manuals may also encourage students to pursue outdoor activities on their own, gener-

ate discussion and analysis of the practicality of items in the texts, encourage students to make useful items from materials that can be acquired in local woods, and provide ideas for projects that might interest the class,” he said.

**“I WANT TO HAVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE WITH DOZENS OF POSSIBILITIES THAT WILL APPEAL TO STUDENTS WITH A VARIETY OF INTERESTS, SKILL SETS, AND ACCESS TO MATERIALS AND OUTDOOR SPACES.”**

The resource library will include works of non-fiction that provide historical context to survival situations and highlight the determination and ability of humans to overcome extreme hardships. John already references many of these stories in class and is excited to have copies on hand for students to borrow. He also noted that he’s eager for students to gain important skills from books rather than videos:

“Students who have an interest in the skills we cover often discuss discoveries with me or share them with the class. Their discoveries almost always come from YouTube. Students have no idea that the instructions that they watch during a 12-minute video can often be conveyed far more efficiently in three simple diagrams in a book. Using books enables them to more efficiently evaluate a variety of topics for further study or experimentation,” John explained.

“Having the books on hand will give students another pathway to enrich their experience in the course and engage content beyond that which is covered in the curriculum,” he said.

A few of the titles include: Guide to Getting Around Without a Compass; Ultimate Book of Everyday Knots; 438 Days; Outdoor Life Emergency Survival Manual; Alive; Skeletons of the Zahara; Island of the Lost; Into the Abyss; and Adrift. ●

## GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA JAPANESE SCHOOL

The Central Pennsylvania Japanese School (“Central Pennsylvania Nihongo Gakko”) was established in 1985 to offer an education in Japanese language to Japanese children and other qualified children from ages 6 through 15—the ages corresponding to the ages of compulsory attendance at school in Japan—living in State College and Central Pennsylvania region. The school was supported by the government of Japan.

“FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS, OUR STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED AT THE LOCAL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN SCASD ON WEEKDAYS AND LEARNED AT OUR SCHOOL ON EVERY SATURDAY.”

“For nearly 40 years, our students have learned at the local elementary and middle schools in SCASD on weekdays and learned at our school on every Saturday,” said Shinichiro Sugihara, Director & President.

According to Education Foundation President Michelle Frisco, “In honor of educational opportunities given to children of the Central Pennsylvania Japanese School by SCASD over the past 37 years, the school recently made a

generous \$20,000 contribution to the SCASD Education Foundation.”

“IN HONOR OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO CHILDREN OF THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA JAPANESE SCHOOL BY SCASD OVER THE PAST 37 YEARS, THE SCHOOL RECENTLY MADE A GENEROUS \$20,000 CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION.”

A portion of the donation will be used to purchase Japanese books for school libraries so that students can learn about Japanese culture with the hope that some will become interested in working as a bridge between the U.S. and Japan in the future. Remaining funds will be used at the discretion of the district and the Education Foundation.

*The contribution illustrates the power of community partnership and the importance of organizations working together to benefit students.* ●

## CLASS REUNION NEWS

### 1960-62

The classes of 1960, '61 and '62 are working on a combined reunion in 2022 since the classes of 1960 and 1961 had no reunions due to Covid. *Stay tuned for details.*

### 1972

**50th reunion for the class of 1972 on June 17, 2022** at Toftrees! Details and registration are here: [raceroster.com/events/2022/52313/50th-reunion](http://raceroster.com/events/2022/52313/50th-reunion)

### 1976

The class of '76 will be holding the **1st anniversary of 45th reunion (when we're 64) on Saturday July 16th** at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Boalsburg (former Elks Club). This is Arts Festival Weekend.

Please contact Debbie Meder at [medergohn@gmail.com](mailto:medergohn@gmail.com) with updates on address and especially email.

### 1981

Kerry Small writes: **The class of 1981 will hold our "40th-ish" reunion on Saturday, July 23rd** from 5-11 pm at the Mountain View Country Club (formerly Elks) in Boalsburg. More details about Saturday night and the rest of the weekend's festivities will follow on the State College High School Class of 1981 Facebook page. We are so excited to get everyone from our awesome class together for what will be another memorable class of '81 reunion!

## A NEW HOME FOR THE "OLD IRON KETTLE"

The Centre County Historical Society recently announce that the State High Alumni Association has donated the legendary "Old Iron Kettle" to be displayed in the Hearth Room at Centre Furnace Mansion. The Kettle was the coveted trophy from the intense Bellefonte-State College football rivalry from 1941 to 1972.

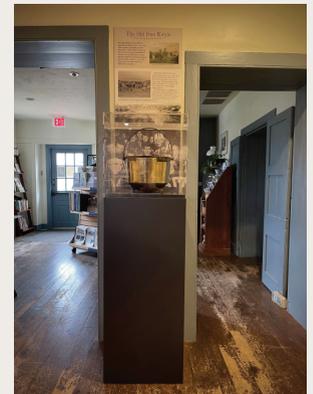
Tom Smith, a State High 1950 graduate and Alumni Association Director— citing "The Battle of Benner Pike: A History of the Bellefonte-State College Football Rivalry" by Ralph Gray – explained that two unidentified Penn State students found a rusted kettle in

1940 while hunting near "Rock," the location of what remained of Philip Benner's 148-year-old mansion. The Kettle was likely made at Philip Benner's "Rock Iron Works" foundry.

The Kettle's insertion into Centre County history came about when Lou Bell, then Director of Public Information at Penn State, suggested to Bob Wilson, *Centre Daily Times* Sports Editor, that the CDT sponsor it as a trophy for the annual Bellefonte–State College football games. Titan Metal Mfg. Co. of Bellefonte cleaned the Kettle and affixed a brass plate to be later engraved with the scores of each game, the first of which was played on September 19, 1941, in "the Hollow" in State College, when Bellefonte won 7-0.

Smith said the Iron Kettle series had a few breaks over the years and ended unceremoniously in 1999 when State College – by then a much larger school than Bellefonte – won the last game, 62-0. The Old Iron Kettle is now on display at Centre Furnace Mansion at 1001 E. College Ave. in State College.

For more information or to schedule a time to see the display, call 814-234-4779. ●



Save the date

STATE HIGH  
**1987**  
VOLTAGE

**35th Reunion!**

July 16, 2022  
Centre Hills CC  
State College, PA

Details to follow &  
Spread the Word

For questions, updates or to get involved please email [scahs87@gmail.com](mailto:scahs87@gmail.com)  
or  
State College Area High School Class of 1987  
FB page



**State College Area School District**  
**EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

240 Villa Crest Drive  
State College, PA 16801

[www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org)

894-41456



## MAROON & GRAY DINNER

Saturday, May 21, 2022  
Wyndham Garden Hotel

JOIN US FOR A TRULY SPECIAL EVENT TO FINALLY  
OFFICIALLY INDUCT OUR 2020 HONOREES  
AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF MARDI LOWRY  
MCDONOUGH '87, NAMESAKE OF THE STUDENT  
OPPORTUNITY FUND & GRANT PROGRAM.

Tickets are available through May 13 at  
[scasdfoundation.org/event/2022-banquet/](http://scasdfoundation.org/event/2022-banquet/).

## BE PART OF THE FOUNDATION

NEWS AND NOTES ON  
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT  
SCASD STUDENTS

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*Visit [www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org) and find the form on the homepage.*

## MAKE A GIFT IN 2021-22

*Create new opportunities for students by making a donation to the Education Foundation online at [www.scasdfoundation.org](http://www.scasdfoundation.org).*