

SJPS Foundation Kicks Off 2017 by Awarding \$91,072 in Special Fund Grants

A strong financial position allowed the SJPS Foundation to award 16 grants, totaling \$91,072 this week. Special Fund Requests are grants for SJPS Administrators and Club Advisors for school projects that typically don't happen in the classroom under the direction of one teacher. These may be for after school groups; special interest projects or district wide initiatives. The focus must be on academics and arts within the district. Superintendent Ann Cardon commented,

"I am extremely grateful to the SJPS Foundation for their dedication to this district. They work hard to ensure that all of our students receive the tools and resources needed to obtain a quality education which will lead to their future success."

CONGRATULATIONS, GRANT RECIPIENTS!

[Click here for a complete list of grant recipients and projects](#)

Tradition of Excellence - SJPS Orchestra



Burke Lokey

St. Joseph Public Schools' Orchestra program has earned the reputation of being one of the premier school orchestra programs in the country. [Steve Reed](#), who began his tenure at the high school in 1977, built an exceptional foundation for the program which has continued under the direction of [Burke Lokey](#), who took over in 2010 upon Reed's retirement. Under his leadership, the orchestras have earned top ratings at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Festivals, and in 2012 the Chamber Orchestra received 3rd place at the National Orchestra Festival. Mr. Lokey oversees close to 300 students participating in three orchestras at the High School and three at Upton Middle School.

According to Lokey, advocating for a strong fine arts program is one of the most important aspects of his job.

"I want students and families to understand how important and beneficial participating in the arts can be. Not just because it can help to boost test scores (many

studies have made this correlation) but the arts are rewarding in ways that cannot necessarily be measured by standardized tests."



Lokey won the District VI Teacher of the Year award last spring and was recently a finalist for the prestigious [MSBO](#) State Teacher of the Year award.

We recently spoke with current and former students who shared their thoughts and memories of participating in orchestra.

Victoria Balfe SJHS '20, Cello, Philharmonic Orchestra

"I am a new student in St. Joseph, and a new cellist in the orchestra. Mr. Lokey handles the way we practice and play our music in a way that makes us better players. He also gives us valuable lessons that will be useful in life."

Elissa Capes SJHS '14, Viola, Chamber Orchestra; Junior at Grand Valley State University

*"My first day of sophomore year I was placed into Chamber Orchestra without any bow control and peers who could sight read *Sing, Sing, Sing* at full speed. Mr. Lokey said that if I stayed everything would work out, and it did. I met some of my closest friends in high school through orchestra and was able to go to Nationals and tour California my senior year. Mr. Lokey once told me that what I say matters. His advice has stuck with me."*

Jessica Foster SJHS '15, Violin, Symphony Orchestra; Sophomore at University of Michigan

"Mr. Lokey introduced us to many different types of music beyond classical through his personal experiences, stories, and sometimes very strange or cool videos, such as the piece "4 Minutes and 33 Seconds." Orchestra with Mr. Lokey definitely led me to appreciate the art of music in a new way that helped my love for music grow throughout my four years."

Trevor Greissing, SJHS '15, Viola, Chamber Orchestra; Sophomore at University of Michigan

"Orchestra with Mr. Lokey was one of my favorite classes in high school. Mr. Lokey treated us as musical peers, not just as students. He took input from us and incorporated it into the music we leaned and played. Because of the musical cooperation between Mr. Lokey and his students, the SJHS orchestras are able to continuously produce music at a higher level than what is normally expected of a high school orchestra."

Sydney Hill SJHS '19, Cello, Symphony Orchestra

"My favorite memory of Mr. Lokey was when he almost fell while jumping onto the podium, forgetting it was on wheels. We work hard, but also have fun in his class."

Chaelynn Lee SJHS '18, Violin, Chamber Orchestra

"This year is very busy for the Chamber Orchestra because we have a national competition. Mr. Lokey directs our three orchestras, plus the Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra, and still finds time for his family. I've never had another teacher work as hard as Mr. Lokey."

Erik Rumsa, SJHS '17, Violin, Chamber Orchestra

"I stay in orchestra because I am always excited to play great music with other inspired musicians. Mr. Lokey is the teacher that not only cares about the subject he is teaching, but uses music as a tool to teach us life."

Dayton Thompson, SJHS '17, Cello, Chamber Orchestra

"I like that orchestra lets you express yourself through music. It is amazing to play in a large symphony and create great music together."

Laura Wolf, SJHS '20, Viola, Philharmonic Orchestra

"I love orchestra because when Mr. Lokey first gives us a piece, we usually stumble through it and it seems it will never come together. Somehow, it always does and it is very rewarding to hear the results and the progress we have made."



Photo by Rob Regovich/Johnson Rauhoff

The Chamber Orchestra is one of 15 High School orchestras from around the country that has been selected to compete in the [National Orchestra Festival](#) in March. They will perform for judges and be ranked, based on their performance. They will also get the opportunity to work with some of the nation's top music

educators in clinics and master classes. The [SJPS Foundation](#), a long time supporter of the Orchestra program, has awarded \$5,000 to the program to help defray the cost of sending the students to the Festival.



"The most rewarding part of my job by far is the opportunity I have to see these students excel. Whether it is a 6th grade student just starting out or a senior who has been playing for years, I have these students for up to seven years and it gives me a chance to build strong relationships and watch each student grow as a musician." - Burke Lokey

Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Award Winners Announced

99 students from Upton Middle School and St. Joseph High School recently won regional Scholastic Art Awards. [Click here for a list of award winners](#) and be sure and visit our [student art gallery](#). The students work will be exhibited at the [South Bend Museum of Art](#) through March 11, 2017. 28 of these students won gold. Their works will be judged nationally in New York City.



Artist: Elyia Moss, 12th Grade



Artist: Ellie Haunhorst, 8th Grade

Congratulations to our outstanding high school writers! St. Joseph High School received 123 total awards in 9 categories, which include 7 Gold Keys, 38 Silver Keys, and 78 Honorable Mentions. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program, through the University of Iowa, has offered students a prestigious, highly-competitive contest since 1923. Our students compete in the Midwest region and have the opportunity to have their work judged at the national level. The High School English department would like to thank SJPS teachers from all grade levels who have challenged their students with writing opportunities. Keep up the great work!

[Scholastic Writing Award Winners](#)

Coming in March

Art Department teachers Matt Culver and Joe Fralick, recent winners of the "Ann Hamilton Inspired Teaching Award" at the Scholastic Art Awards event in South Bend.

Seniors: Have you completed your scholarship applications?

Believe in Yourself, Suchofsky and Yeager Scholarship applications are due **Monday, February 27th by 3:00 pm**



\$45,000 for SJHS Seniors - Class of 2017
Download 2017 Scholarship Application Forms

Take a shot at it...Enter the Foundation Photo Contest!



Photos accepted through March 17th

[Click here for contest rules](#)



Memorials



In Memory of Burt Baker

Dennis and Lynn Bowen

In Memory of Steve Harmon

Bill and Jan Metzger

In Memory of Ed Ross

Anderson Building Materials

Eric and Barbara Anderson

Beryl and MaryLee Bailey

Perry and Annette Ballard

Tony and Judy Belski

Dan and Stacy Burton

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Thank You January Donors!

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