



# East Aurora Educational Foundation 2023 Year End Recap

2023 was a milestone year for the East Aurora Educational Foundation.

We have officially given over **one million dollars** in grants funded by the generosity of donors like you!



## 11th Annual Celebration Event

At the event, the foundation presented the prestigious James Ford Commitment to Education Award to Catherine Warda-Bender.

Catherine is a school psychologist at the middle school and is known for her ability to handle sensitive situations delicately and to communicate with students and families in crisis, which helps create positive outcomes.

**The East Aurora Educational Foundation is seeking nominations for the Ford Commitment to Excellence in Education Award.**

This prestigious award, created in memory of James Ford, will be presented to the person, organization or group in the East Aurora community that most exemplifies the following qualities that Mr. Ford exhibited in helping to establish the foundation:

- Commitment to the betterment of education in East Aurora
- Persistent dedication to the cause
- Creative and original thinking
- Involvement in community life

Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page for information on how to submit your nomination.

## Looking for a new way to give back to the East Aurora Educational Foundation?

We have added a silent auction to our annual Celebration Event and are accepting donations to be included. Please contact Brittany Neumann at [bneumann@eak12.org](mailto:bneumann@eak12.org) to donate.

## Upcoming Events

**April 26, 2024**

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Breakfast at The Roycroft Inn

**September 26, 2024**

12th Annual Celebration Event at The Bank



Scan the QR code for more information on any of our events or to stay up-to-date on all things East Aurora Educational Foundation.

## 2023 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

In April the East Aurora Educational Foundation inducted five outstanding EAHS Alumni into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. These individuals were nominated by family, friends and coworkers.

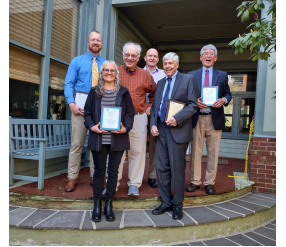
Grant Hamilton '65

Jason Ohler '71  
(Posthumously)

Jeffrey Kibler '90

Harry Tsujimoto '44  
(Posthumously)

Scott More '05



## Do you know an EAHS graduate who should be in the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame?

The East Aurora Educational Foundation is seeking nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Award. The award honors East Aurora Alumni who meet the following criteria: excellence in their fields, outstanding community service, and contributions to humanity. Scan the QR code at the bottom of the page for information on how to submit your nomination.



## Meet our new Development Director

In May, we welcomed Brittany (Lazickas) Neumann as our new Development Director. A 2007 graduate of East Aurora High School, Mrs. Neumann is excited to give students more opportunities that weren't available while she attended East Aurora schools.

## 2023 Grants

**In 2023 the East Aurora Education Foundation approved seven grants totaling over \$54,000.**

### Parkdale Reads

We all know that COVID has made education challenging for our students the last few years. Students have come to second grade with a wide variety of reading skills, strengths and weaknesses. Our project aims to meet students at their level and ensure that all students can learn and develop with materials appropriate for them.

### Re- Imagining the English Classroom

This grant enabled the transformation of "pod" spaces into mini-classrooms. The markerboards, lap desks, and teacher desks purchased through the grant provides the resources needed to create flexible learning environments, not only in the classroom, but outside the classroom.

### Women in Leadership Conference

Empowered women empower women. We seek to develop the skills and resources needed to make today's college campuses work for us and utilize our networking capabilities beginning at home. We want to return to WNY as leaders for our communities and our next generations.

### Sustainable Agriculture Program

The East Aurora Sustainable Agriculture Program will establish a new class and club on the topic at EAHS. The students will operate the Sustainable Agriculture Lab on the EAHS campus. The program will educate and empower our school and community to support environmentally and economically beneficial local food production that works within natural systems. The program aims to create lifelong advocates, consumers and producers of healthy, sustainable and local food.

### Sensory Friendly Classrooms

Utilizing informed sensory design, the grant components focus upon sensory systems in the classroom. The grant includes sensory friendly dimmable LED string lighting, Octo Light backlit covers for ceiling light fixtures, dry erase interactive work tables, plants, and sensory-friendly floor seating for two classrooms at Parkdale Elementary School.

### Community Safety Training

Safety First! The EAUFS is pleased to offer the first of many hands-only CPR training classes to members of the local community. Attendees will learn necessary skills that can be used in the event of emergency.

### Creating a Student Led Apparel Design Company

Students plan and execute a school based enterprise. The Devil's Den will reopen as a student-run apparel design shop. Let us design apparel for your club, team or organization!

# Thank you to our 2023 Volunteers & Donors

## 2023 Celebration Event Sponsors

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