

# CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the Sedalia School District Foundation, Inc.



P.O. Box 2505 • Sedalia, MO 65302-2505 • 660-829-2562 • Sedalia200.Foundation@gmail.com

S-C Grads

Community

Sedalia 200 Staff

School Foundation

## Excited to celebrate 30 years

### The Sedalia School District Foundation provides a wide variety of services for Sedalia School District students, educators, and alumni

The Foundation was incorporated in 1995 as a not-for-profit corporation for charitable and educational purposes. In 2025, the board of directors will celebrate the foundation's history of success.

All board of directors are volunteers. The board includes representatives from Sedalia School District staff, the business community, parents, SSD school board, and alumni. The board operates independently of the school system with the superintendent of schools, Dr. Todd Fraley, meeting monthly with the Foundation board and serving in an ex officio capacity. This is an active board involved with the school district and Sedalia community at events such as the back-to-school breakfast for educators, Smith-Cotton

High School Homecoming weekend, annual golf tournament, and Chamber of Commerce meetings.

The Foundation publishes the CONNECTIONS newsletter, lists Smith-Cotton class reunions on the website and in social media, manages scholarships funds, and raises money for special projects. Those interested in joining the Foundation's board of directors are encouraged to contact a current member or the Foundation office at 660-829-2562.

#### 2025 Board of Directors

Greg Cecil  
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Dena Stockstill

## Administrative assistant retires



The board of directors of the Sedalia School District Foundation announces the retirement of the administrative assistant Paula Schupp. A Green Ridge High School graduate, Paula traded her allegiance to black and gold tiger stripes when her daughters, Arden and Roxy, entered Horace Mann Elementary School.

Their status as third-generation Horace Mann students led to Paula's interest in the school's history.

As part of the preparation for the school's 100th Anniversary, Paula began collecting stories from past students and tidbits of history on the school which was published as a book for the 100th birthday party in May 2012. Members of the SSDF board of directors served at the birthday party and Paula was introduced to the Foundation. She joined the Foundation board of directors in 2013 and became the administrative assistant in January of 2014.

Paula's career experience in the world of nonprofits was a perfect fit for the Foundation along with her passion for student success and love for teachers.

Many of those closest to her, including her mother and husband, were or are teachers. The Sedalia School District Foundation's programs such as Mini Grants, back-to-school breakfast, and gifts to SCEA staff and teachers of the year support and encourage educator success. Her favorite moments and proudest successes are associated with the scholarship program. When she started with the Foundation in 2014 there were 23 scholarships and a total of \$23,900 was awarded to the senior class. In 2024 the Foundation awarded \$83,600 and managed 46 scholarships. The board thanks Paula for her years of service and says, "Enjoy your retirement!"

## Recent Mini Grants provide for active and creative projects in the classroom

The Foundation supports teachers and staff with funding for innovative projects in the classroom through Mini Grants. In the past the Foundation has awarded Mini Grants to purchase a scrim curtain for the stage in the Heckart Performing Arts Center, field trips to the University of Central Missouri children's literature

festival, and the purchase of flexible seating in the classroom. All Sedalia School District employees are eligible to apply for a Mini Grant. An information sheet and application are available on our website at [sedaliasdf.org/mini-grants/](http://sedaliasdf.org/mini-grants/).



Janice Hargrave and Emily Lehman, teachers at Parkview Elementary School, received a Mini Grant to purchase twenty-five sets of an interactive game of stomp rockets and launchers. Mrs. Hargrave wrote about receiving the grant, "Thank you for helping our school get these. We have used

them on numerous occasions for our house celebrations and Rock Your School Day. Using the stomp rockets allows students of various grade levels to cooperate as they play together to shoot and retrieve the rockets. This experience helps build a climate of cooperation and inclusion within the various grade levels. They are also a great incentive for good behavior."

**Photo: Students at Parkview Elementary School play with stomp rockets purchased through a mini grant from the Sedalia School District Foundation. Photo courtesy of Janice Hargrave**



**Photo: Students at Whittier High School used a light box purchased through a mini grant from the Foundation in an art project inspired by Andy Warhol. Photos courtesy of Patricia Lewis.**

Artist Andy Warhol is famous for his paintings and prints of multiple images of colorful everyday objects and pop culture icons. Patricia Lewis who teaches art at Whittier High School led students in a project inspired by Andy Warhol. In the classroom there are two light boxes purchased through a mini grant from the Sedalia School District Foundation. Mrs. Lewis writes about the project and light boxes, "Art can help students express themselves. The light boxes really help students that are challenged with drawing. If they can first trace the base picture on the paper correctly by using the light box, they are more confident in finishing the rest of the assignment."



**Photo: In the library at Smith-Cotton Junior High, students explore STEM games that encourage inquiry, problem solving, and critical thinking. Photo courtesy of Megan Sparks.**

Initiated with a Sedalia School District Foundation mini grant in 2015, with additional grants in 2018 and 2021, Megan Sparks, librarian at Smith-Cotton Junior High School, created hands-on learning experiences during seminar in the school library media center. Ms. Sparks wrote about the mini grant, "In this digital age, students spend much of their time at school and at home looking at a screen. Now more than ever we need to provide activities which encourage students to use their hands, be creative, and explore!" Funding from the mini grants has served approximately 1200 students in grades six through eighth over the past 10 years. One of Ms. Spark's objectives of the 2021 grant was to actively engage 95% of the students during their seminar time. She wrote this follow-up, "I believe that number to be 100%. Another grant objective stated 0% of students will receive academic referrals during these activities, which has been absolutely true!"

## Congratulations to Fall 2024 Dual Credit Scholarship recipients



The Foundation offers a scholarship for Smith-Cotton High School students taking a three-hour dual credit class at State Fair Community College. Five students received a scholarship in the Fall 2024 semester to pay the tuition of one college-level course for which the students receive both college and high school credits. Selection is based on GPA and a written essay. Appropriate placement scores are required for Math and English courses.

**Recipients of a Fall 2024 SSDF Dual Credit Scholarship, in photo left to right: Kylie Moreno, Oliver Cunningham, Natalie Beard, Josie Peck, and Kelsey Thomas. Photo courtesy of the Sedalia School District #200.**

## Traveling or staying local? Find a Major Saver Card



Major Saver cards are back this spring. Sedalia cards are \$20 and can be purchased online at [www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com). Out-of-town friends and family can order their local card and credit the Sedalia School District. Major Saver cards are available across the Midwest in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas. Cards are available for towns in the Kansas City metro area and mid-Missouri. There is also a Branson, Missouri card. All cards purchased online will be mailed directly to the customer.

Since the start of Major Saver Card sales in 2001, over \$530,000 has been split between the Sedalia School District Foundation and participating Sedalia #200 schools. For more information call Major Saver Cards at 1-800-320-1614 or the Sedalia School District Foundation at 660-829-2562.

## We've moved!



The Foundation office has moved to 3302 W. 16th St in Sedalia. The building is across the street from State Fair Community College. The Foundation office is on the main level inside the Preferred Properties Real Estate building. Email [schfound@sedaliasdf.org](mailto:schfound@sedaliasdf.org) or call 660-829-2562 to make an appointment.

## Stay Connected

Keep the Sedalia School District Foundation up-to-date on address and name changes, loss of family member, or changes in class members' lives through Facebook, Sedalia School District Foundation, or email at [schfound@sedaliasdf.org](mailto:schfound@sedaliasdf.org), or call the office at 660-829-2562.



## The Sedalia School District Foundation would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for making homecoming weekend 2024 a huge success:

Tyson Foods  
 Ben E. Keith Company  
 Hiland Dairy  
 Country Kitchen  
 David Wolf  
 Bothwell Regional Health Center Foundation  
 BTC Bank  
 Fazoli's  
 Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers  
 GUESA USA (Dairy Queen & Steak 'n Shake)  
 Marshall's, Inc. (McDonald's)  
 Power Up! Arcade  
 Samantha Bean-RE/MAX of Sedalia  
 W-K Family of Dealerships  
 Mark Thompson  
 Sedalia School District maintenance crew  
 Sedalia School District custodial crew  
 Sedalia School District food service department  
 Smith-Cotton Junior High "Sound Effects"  
 Smith-Cotton High School "Tiger Pride" Marching Band  
 Smith-Cotton High School "New Score"

### Smith-Cotton homecoming alumni sponsors

Boulevard Hair Co, Tiffany Walters  
 CALLIS, Cliff Callis  
 Chad Wimer, DDS, Chad and Leslie Wimer  
 Chill, Angie Howard  
 Coldwell Banker Monsees Realty, Lisa Sell  
 Custom Communications, Ken Norton  
 Ditzfeld Container Services, Sam Ditzfeld  
 DUGANS, Chuck Kempton, Jason Kempton, Tyger Paul  
 Eye Clinic, Desmon Carl  
 Impact Signs, David Goodson  
 Kimberly Tanner Attorney at Law  
 Landmann Title Co., Stephanie Wooldridge  
 and Jim VanHorn  
 LineLava, Bethany Nichols Springer  
 Matz Properties, Scott and Craig Matz,  
 Moore's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, Dave Moore  
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 RE/MAX of Sedalia, Haley Barnes  
 RE/MAX of Sedalia, Kyscha Martin  
 RE/MAX of Sedalia, Dena Stockstill  
 RE/MAX of Sedalia, Angie Yeager  
 Robert A. Treuner Masonry Company, Andrew Treuner  
 Truman Title Co, Todd and Drew Lewis  
 Yeager's Cycle Sales, Larry Yeager

### Distinguished Alumni Award application now available

The Sedalia School District Foundation  
 Distinguished Alumni Award application  
 packet is available on the Foundation's website  
 at [sedaliasdf.org/distinguished-alumni](https://sedaliasdf.org/distinguished-alumni).

### Read More

Visit the Sedalia School District Foundation webpage at [sedaliasdf.org](https://sedaliasdf.org). More information is available about the scholarship program, Mini Grants, golf tournament, Leave a Legacy, Distinguished Alumni, and a secure way to make contributions and gifts in memory of classmates.



Connect with the Sedalia School District 200  
 on Facebook to follow the amazing things  
 happening in the district.

### Save-the-Date

Celebrate Homecoming on October 3, 2025, at Smith-Cotton High School. The Sedalia School District Foundation will host a Tailgate Party before the football game. Cheer on the Smith-Cotton Tigers football team at Tiger Stadium.

On Saturday, October 4th the Foundation will host their annual pancake breakfast at Smith-Cotton Junior High with the campus open for tours. Additional details will be posted on the Foundation's website and Facebook page as they become available.

### Smith-Cotton High School Class Reunions

Class of 1970: October 4, 2025  
 Class of 1975: October 4, 2025  
 Class of 1980: October 4, 2025

## New and Renewed Alumni and Friend of the Foundation Memberships

### New LIFETIME Alumni Members



1962  
Glenda Lewis  
Finnie

### New and Renewed Friends of the FOUNDATION Members

Carol Henderson  
Danny Lane  
John Mateja  
Richard Morris  
James Muin

Jerry Scott  
Jeff Shoemaker  
Bill Taylor  
Ron and Judy Toellner  
Marty Watson

### New or Renewed ALUMNI Memberships

1954 Ada Durrill Biggs  
1958 Jerry Bredwell  
1958 Richard Morris  
1959 David Shackles  
1960 Harry Fowler  
1961 James Hausam  
1962 Jill Ragland Cross  
1962 Emily Brown Hickey  
1962 James Stivers, Jr.  
1963 Larry McCown  
1964 Rebecca Thomas Garst  
1964 Shirley Turner  
McCowin  
1967 Connie Robertson  
Arnest

1967 Carol Henderson  
Brown  
1967 Linda Kaullen Perkins  
1967 Deborah Silberstein  
Stoeckle  
1968 Mike Robertson  
1973 Ricky Craig  
1975 Cliff Callis  
1975 Greg Harrell  
1976 Jeff Shoemaker  
1983 Jerry Scott  
1997 Brandi Pirtle LaCasse  
2016 Emilee Edgar Simpson

## Where are you? What are you doing?

1962 Glenda Lewis Finnie is a new Lifetime Alumni member. She lives in St Louis with her husband of over 50 years, Bill Finnie. They have two sons and six grandchildren. Glenda is a retired math teacher. Through a quirk of fate, she and 1962 classmate Kay Cummins Finnie, married brothers.

## Sedalia 200 unveils new logos

The Sedalia School District 200 has a new look starting in the 2024-2025 school year. Superintendent Dr. Todd Fraley led a team of district administrators and school board members who worked with a Sedalia-based marketing and advertising firm to determine new branding standards. The new district logo features the motto, "Providing the Path of Opportunity." The path is the focal point of the district logo, winding its way to

a bright future on the horizon. The logo includes four stars, which represent the four pillars of National Honor Society: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. There are new tiger logos as well. The tiger head logomark is the primary logo for each school. Dr. Fraley said the district would transition to the new branding over the next year or so.





# Thank You For Your Generous Support

## **Joe Arbisi Scholarship**

Becky Arbisi

## **James Michael Boston Scholarship**

Michael and Jean Boston

## **Morris K. Byrum Scholarship**

Jacqueline Harvey  
Scott McRuer  
Jeanne Salmon

## **Gerald O. and Helen E. Cecil Scholarship**

Greg and Michelle Cecil

## **Cedar Hill Scholarship**

John and Robyn DeMott  
Richard McQuitty

## **Covered Bridge Heritage Vocational Fund**

John and Robyn DeMott

## **Jane McCurdy Dugan Scholarship**

Kenny and Kathy Norton

## **Frances Elizabeth Rapp Ely Scholarship**

Doug and Judy Ely

## **Thom Fuller Scholarship**

Dolly Cobb

## **Horace Mann Elementary School**

Anne Sillers Taylor

## **Charles A Ledgerwood Scholarship**

Nancy Fansher  
Angela Ledgerwood

## **Sharon Maggard Mateja Scholarship**

Ronnie Alewel  
Sandy Larson  
Sharon Lowman  
Pat Rinehart  
Serena Underhill  
Nancy Wakley  
Carla White  
Beverly Wilkerson

## **Major Saver Scholarship**

Major Saver Holdings

## **Sedalia School District Foundation General Scholarship**

Dale and Judy Carson  
Anne Sillers Turner

## **Mark Shelby Scholarship**

Timothy Abney

## **Skip Schulz-Say You Will Scholarship**

Timothy Abney

## **Gary and Larry Siron**

Doug Gilpin

## **Conrad Stephens Scholarship**

Doug Gilpin

## **Student Impact Fund**

David Furnell  
Brent and Rachelle Hesterlee  
W-K Family of Dealerships  
Daniel Woolery

## **Seth Wagenknecht Scholarship**

John and Tracey Drenon

## **Joan Walker Scholarship**

Timothy Abney  
Sarah Spence

## **Washington Elementary School**

Steve and Cheryl Carver  
Charles Mecum

## **Norma M. Wells Scholarship**

Bruce Wells  
Michael Wells

## **Where Needed Most**

Jerry Bredwell  
Harry Burford  
Class of 1960 alum for office move expenses  
Scott Gardner  
Chuck and Sherry Kempton  
Doug Gilpin  
Robert Lindstrom  
Sedalia Chamber of Commerce

## **Whittier High School Patty Abney Scholarship**

Dan and Patty Abney  
Timothy Abney  
Julie Bosse  
Ryan and Leslie Lidholm

## **Memorials**

### **1934 Abe Silverman**

Mimi (Silverman) Deel

### **1958 Jim Mateja**

William and Susan Mateja

### **1959 James E Kresse**

Marilyn Owens

### **1968 John Fredrick "Fred" Bluhm, III, M.D.**

William and Judy Woolery

## **1972 Theresa Hunt Eads**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 David Benner**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 Dale Libbert**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 Amos Hopkins**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 David Lambirth**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 Sandy Lueck**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **1975 Bill Pillars**

Dennis and Terri Paul

## **Rick Miller**

Kathy Kempton Norton

## **Jeanette Viebrock**

Dennis and Terri Paul  
Rick Yount

## **Mary Wiechen**

Dana Branson

## **Leave a Legacy**

### **Alan and Becky Braverman and Stuart and Kim**

**Braverman** ordered an 8x8 paver in memory of **Chester Kirkpatrick/Class of 1944**

**Class of 1964** ordered a paver to be engraved "Class of 1964/Carpe diem/"Seize the Day"/GO TIGERS!"

Shirley McCown ordered a paver in memory of **Dee Ann Crowder/1946-2024/Class of 1964**

Rick and Luci McRoy ordered a paver for the **McRoy Family/Rick 1975/Luci 27 yrs SMS/SCHS/Chad 2007 Chase 2011**

Kyle Middleton ordered a paver in honor of the Middleton family **Jeff 1997, David 1999, and Kyle 2003**

Amanda Harvey ordered a paver in honor of her daughter **Annison Mills/Class of 2024/Valedictorian** and her parents **James W and Dana Page/Class of 1978**

Dana Page ordered pavers in honor of **Debbie Davenport/Class of 1975** and **James Page IV/Class of 1999**

## **All-Staff Back-to-School Breakfast sponsors and donors**

Bazoo Books  
Central Bank of Sedalia  
Elks Lodge #125  
L.J. Hart & Company  
Moore's Flower Shop & Greenhouse  
Nucor Steel Sedalia  
Queen City Coffee  
Panera Bread  
Preuitt Insurance Services  
Scott Gardner  
Springfield Grocer  
Walmart  
W-K Family of Dealers  
Wood's Supermarket East  
Yummy's Donuts

## **We are Tiger Pride**

Support your favorite Tiger team by joining the Sedalia School District Foundation. The Foundation was incorporated in 1995 as a 501(c)(3) corporation with the goal to raise, manage, and distribute private investment for the benefit of the Sedalia School District's students, staff and patrons. For only \$25 in annual dues, you can join the Foundation as an Alumni or Friend of the Foundation member to Keep Education a Priority.



# Sedalia School District Foundation—Keeping Education a Priority

Through the generosity of alumni, friends, business leaders, and district patrons the Sedalia School District Foundation provides an alternative funding source for improvements to our schools, to help graduates realize their dreams, and alumni show their Tiger Pride.

## Donor Name and Address

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

(for Sedalia School District #200 graduates)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual and Lifetime Membership

### Annual SSDF Membership

Supporters will receive recognition in the CONNECTIONS newsletter.

☐ S-C Alumni Member—\$25

☐ Friend of the Foundation Member—\$25

### Lifetime SSDF Membership

This gift assists with the CONNECTIONS newsletter and events to support the school district and alumni.

☐ S-C Alumni Lifetime Member—\$250

☐ Friend of the Foundation Lifetime Member—\$250

## More opportunities to give

I would like to make an unrestricted gift in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift will go into the Sedalia School District Foundation general budget.

I would like to make a gift to the following program in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Brendan Eisenmenger Student Impact Fund

☐ Building Enhancement—name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tiger Fund

☐ Mini Grants

☐ SSDF Endowment

(Please note: 5% will be deducted from restricted gifts of \$100 or more to assist with administrative fees.)

Total Gifts Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to SSDF. Mail this form and payment to:  
SSDF, P.O. Box 2505, Sedalia MO 65302-2505

The Sedalia School District Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Contributions are deductible under the definition of the Internal Revenue code. For more information email [schfound@sedaliasdf.org](mailto:schfound@sedaliasdf.org).

## Scholarship Gifts

☐ SSDF General

☐ Joe Arbisi

☐ Bill G. Arnold

☐ Allen Bess

☐ James Michael Boston

☐ Charlene “Charlee”

Brown

☐ Morris K. Byrum

☐ Gerald O. and Helen E.

Cecil

☐ Cedar Hill

☐ Coffelt Family

☐ Cordry Family

☐ Covered Bridge Heritage

Vocational Fund

☐ Coach Ross Dey Baseball

☐ Ron Ditzfeld Legacy

☐ Dual Credit SCHS/SFCC

☐ Jane McCurdy Dugan

☐ Frances Elizabeth

Rapp Ely

☐ Perry Fairfax

☐ Earl R. Finley

☐ Franklin Family

☐ Thom Fuller

☐ C.O. & Gladys Green

☐ Jordan Ali Halane

☐ H.W. Harris

☐ Myron T. Herrick

☐ Jim & Judy Holman

☐ Betty Hopkins Legacy

☐ Larry & Donna Howard

☐ C.H. & Pauline Joy

☐ Charles A. Ledgerwood

☐ Major Saver

☐ Sharon Maggard Mateja

☐ Eva Mothersbaugh

☐ Rob Parkhurst

☐ Steve Schilb

☐ Skip Schulz—Say

You Will

☐ Mark Shelby

☐ Gary & Larry Siron

☐ Smith-Cotton Alumni

☐ Conrad Stephens

☐ Thomas-Evans

☐ Seth Wagenknecht

☐ Joan Walker

☐ Norma M. Wells

☐ Whittier H.S. Patty Abney

☐ Whittier H.S. Jacob Howe

## In Memory or In Honor of

Please acknowledge my gift in the following manner:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include year of graduation if classmate or school if a teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgment of my gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## CONNECTIONS Spring 2025

Sedalia School District Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2505  
Sedalia, MO 65302-2505

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**Brett Hudson**  
Assistant Vice President/Financial Advisor

CONNECTIONS is published with  
the purpose of keeping the reader  
involved, informed, and interested in  
the Sedalia 200 Public Schools.

## Swing into action



The annual golf tournament, sponsored by Dugan's, will take place on Monday, June 30, 2025, at the Sedalia Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament fund programs such as the Dual Credit Scholarships for Smith-Cotton High School students pursuing college credit at SFCC while still in high school and connecting SC

alumni with Sedalia Schools through this newsletter and special events. Generous sponsors and teams create the biggest fundraising event of the year for the Foundation. We are seeking businesses, alumni, and community members to sponsor tee boxes, drink cart, hole-in-one, and driving range. Entry and sponsorship forms can be found on the Foundation's webpage at <https://www.sedaliasdf.org/annual-golf-tournament> or call the foundation office at 660-829-2562, or email [schfound@sedaliasdf.org](mailto:schfound@sedaliasdf.org).



QR code to Golf  
Tournament credit  
card payment site

From the 2024 golf tournament the Dugan's team: Jason Kempton, Chad Fidler, Sean Paul, and Mickey Paul.