



AVID students daring to dream

The dream of a college education seems a step closer to reality for students involved this fall in a new program at La Crosse Logan and Central high schools.

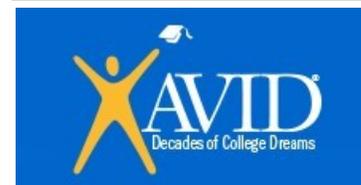
AVID — Advancement Via Individual Determination — is a college-readiness program with proven results. Start-up costs for the program in La Crosse are being paid through a partnership with the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

Students are learning specific skills, such as note-taking and organization, plus being exposed to guest speakers and campus visits. They are focusing on basics, such as completing all assignments, and sitting in the front of classrooms to better engage their teachers. Gaining confidence is key. Said one student: "I'm learning valuable life skills ... I just got a job. I looked into my boss' eyes and shook his hand ... he said I had a lot of character."

Other students offered comments like: "I enjoy coming to school now," and "I found talking to the teacher is actually fun." One said simply: "I smile more."

Largest-ever gift making AVID possible

Nearly \$200,000 in start-up costs over three years will be covered by a pledge from LPEF. Major funding comes from the Otto Bremer Foundation of St. Paul, Minn., and the La Crosse Community Foundation, with added fundraising to come.



"College is like a big step. AVID is breaking it into smaller steps."

- Logan High School freshman



Northside students perform the new school song at the Sept. 18 Open House for the new school. The song was written with funding from an LPEF memorial fund. Details inside.

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Hamilton 1st-Graders David, Asha and Leland hold piñata made by class.

Fund has Northside students singing

A memorial fund that honors the late Sally Grimslid, a former Franklin Elementary teacher, has provided more than \$11,000 in support for public school students on the north side of La Crosse. Proceeds from the fund are administered through the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

The most recent gift helped pay for writing a new school song for Northside Elementary, which opened its doors this fall and greeted the public at an open house Sept. 18.

Other gifts have supported books, supplies, field trips and artists performing on themes, such as inclusion and bullying prevention.



Sally Grimslid

Grant supports enrichment

Students at the Hamilton Early Learning Center are getting enrichment classes in Spanish, math, reading and science — and having fun while they are at it — due in part to a \$4,000 grant from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

“We would not have been able to do this without the LPEF grant,” says Steve Michaels, principal at Hamilton, 1111 S. 7th Street.

Hamilton uses an innovative 45-15 calendar schedule for its year-round schooling. The program has helped increase enrollment and boost student performance by helping them retain more information and build on prior learning.

During the 15-day “intersessions” between quarters, Hamilton offers a variety of enrichment experiences aimed at helping students succeed by “engaging their interests,” Michaels says.

The Hamilton grant was among nearly \$43,000 in grants awarded last school year by the foundation.

Compassion Project now traveling exhibit



In the 2013-14 school year, nearly 6,000 La Crosse school children participated in the La Crosse Compassion Project. They created 6-inch-by-6-inch paintings representing their idea of compassion.

Now the project, which culminated in an exhibition at the Pump House Regional Arts Center, lives on through a traveling exhibit that has been featured at Gundersen Health System and also on the news set of WKBT-TV.

For information about the project and the traveling exhibit, go to our website: <http://lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/lacrossecompassionproject/>

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Ronnie McGavock, also known as entertainer Ronnie Eastman.

Family creates endowment to support music projects

In the hope of inspiring greater creativity within music education and lifelong appreciation of music, a local family has created a new fund to support music education projects in La Crosse public schools.

The McGavock Family Endowment for Music Education — operated by LPEF — will provide annual funding for a program or project to enhance music education within the School District of La Crosse.

The fund is named for Ronald and Philip McGavock. Ronnie was a professional entertainer who performed under the stage name of Ronnie Eastman. Ronnie was performing at the Melody Mill in La Crosse when he met the love of his life, Yvonne Fry. The couple made their home in La Crosse and were blessed with a daughter, Melissa (Klein), a 1985 graduate of Central High School.

Ronnie, who became a successful real estate agent and maintained an active interest in music, died in 1993. Philip, a music educator in his native Illinois, died in 2013.

Random Acts helps kids be kids

A little girl comes to school every day with insect bites, but the family doesn't have the means to hire an exterminator to rid the home of the bugs.

A family left temporarily homeless and staying in a camper and tent at a local campground wants to keep their son in his familiar elementary school. But they need help with gas money to drive him to and from school each day while they struggle to find better housing.

A high school student is selected to participate in a national contest, but cannot afford the travel costs each family is expected to pay.

These are among the countless stories of need addressed just this year through the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, supported by generous donors to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

More than \$20,000 spent meeting needs

In the last school year, more than \$20,000 was spent meeting the needs of students in areas such as nutrition, hygiene, clothing, transportation, academic and co-curricular support. Whatever the need, the fund is there to help.

The Random Acts fund helps kids be kids – and helps keep them in school.

Contact Us

For information about our programs, volunteer opportunities or donations:

**La Crosse Public
Education Foundation**
P.O. Box 1811
La Crosse, WI 54602

(608) 787-0226



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Visit us online: www.lacrosseeducationfoundation.org
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La Crosse Public Education Foundation
P.O. Box 1811
La Crosse, WI 54602-1811

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