



LHS Class of 1975 as they prepare to take part in the annual Colorfest parade during Alumni reunion weekend

All-School Alumni Reunion Events for 2026!

On Saturday, October 17th, during Colorfest weekend, from 4 to 5 p.m. guided tours of the Louisiana Middle and High Schools will be available. The reunion events kick off with an all-school and all-class reunion social/mixer at Louisiana High School. This will run from 4:30 p.m. till 6 p.m. and is open to anyone who attended school in Louisiana, their spouse/significant other and/or friends, and any friends of the local schools. This provides a great opportunity for alumni from one class to mingle and reminisce with those from other classes.

After the social / mixer, a dinner for only those with reservations will begin at 6 p.m. at Louisiana High School. The lighter than usual meal will be catered by Keely Catering, owned by Vicky Mitts Keely ('78), and tickets are \$25 per person.

The dinner will again include recognition of this year's special reunion classes (those with their graduation year ending in 6 or 1) in attendance. We are anticipating a big turnout. Since seating is limited, make your reservations today (see the Reservation Form inside the back cover). Also, a very brief annual business meeting required by our by-laws will be held before dinner. We are reinstating having an accomplished LHS alum give brief remarks during the dinner.

This year will feature Justin St. Pierre, LHS '90, who is President of Peoples Bank & Trust Company in Troy, MO which has a location in Louisiana (formerly the Bank of Louisiana). Later that evening, there will be a dance open to all at the Elks Lodge from 8 – 12 featuring *Retro Joe and the 8-Tracks*. The Elks are donating their facility, will charge a \$5/person cover and have a cash bar available. Thanks to the Class of '86 for covering the cost of the band.

In case you are wondering, the Bulldogs football team will be playing at Mark Twain High School on Friday, October 16 at 7 p.m. The LHS Homecoming game is scheduled for October 9 at 7 p.m. vs. Highland. At the time of publication, the parade is expected to be held Thursday evening the 8th on Georgia Street starting at Sunset Park and going west to LHS. There will be a bonfire and a rally with food trucks. Time has not been set. The LHS FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter usually has a big BBQ fundraiser during Homecoming. It will likely be held this year on Thursday night the 8th to coincide with the parade and bonfire (day is subject to change).

The Sons of the American Legion will have a breakfast at the Legion Hall on Kelly Lane on Sat. morning from 7 – 10 a.m. It's open to the public.

A Message from our President...

It's been 18 years of great reunions for LHS Alumni! I thank everyone involved for all their volunteer work and the donations which have made this get-together possible each year.

This year we gave five \$1,500 scholarships to graduates, thanks to your generous donations to the scholarship fund.

The Alumni Association needs your help to cover our regular business expenses, such as this newsletter, postage, maintaining our website, etc. This is very important! Also, the Association has given teachers \$25 cash for classroom supplies in the past but was unable to do so this year. Please consider financial support for these endeavors (see the Reservation Form inside the back page or go to "Donate" link on our website).

Thank you again for your donations and I look forward to seeing you at the All-School Reunion in October.

Cathy Travis Sippely (LHS '74) 573 754 2328 / caths13@hotmail.com



Visit our website

www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org

Financial Support System

Everyone who has attended Louisiana schools or served the district is automatically a member of the Alumni Association. We no longer ask for annual dues. Instead, members are asked to make tax-deductible donations to our general fund as they are able. Donations help cover expenses such as printing/mailling this newsletter, giving classroom teachers \$25 each, and special purchases to benefit students. Please consider donating today! See the Reservation Form inside the back cover, or visit our website and click "Donate." We accept Venmo and PayPal.

Alumni Scholarships Awarded

We are proud to report it has been seventeen years since our Association awarded its first scholarship. The first two, awarded in 2009, were \$500 each. From 2016-2024, we awarded four \$1,000 scholarships annually. Due to a generous donation received for our scholarship fund in 2025, we increased the amount to \$1,500 each. This year, we also added a fifth, \$1,500 scholarship. This year's recipients were announced during the Senior Awards Night on April 29. They are listed below along with their plans after graduation:

Will Chidster plans to attend Moberly Area Community College (MACC)-Columbia then transfer to the University of Missouri-Columbia working toward his goal of becoming a physical therapist; **Madilynn Jenkins** will attend MACC-Hannibal/online and then transfer to the University of Missouri-Columbia where she ultimately plans to attend their vet school to become a well-respected vet working in Pike County; **Gwendelynn Reed** plans to commute to attend MACC-Hannibal/online then transfer to State Fair Community College in Sedalia to complete their Dental Hygiene program to become licensed as a dental hygienist; **Shyann Shade** will complete her prerequisites at MACC then transfer to State Fair Community College to complete their Dental Hygiene program as that is her career goal; **Reese Wommack** will attend Neosho Community College in Kansas where she will play basketball and pursue coursework that will prepare her to transfer to a larger university working toward her career goal of becoming a sports physical therapist or a pediatric respiratory therapist.

NOTE: 25 out of this year's 41 graduates met the qualifications of the Missouri A+ program. Many of those students plan to utilize the 2 years of free tuition at community colleges and/or career/technical schools in Missouri. To learn more about the A+ program, to <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>.

This brings the total amount of scholarships awarded by our Association since 2009 to worthy LHS graduates to \$64,500! This is made possible only with the support from many of you who make memorial / honorarium donations. THANK YOU! It is our hope that the Association will be able to continue to make these and even greater awards in the years to come.

LHS Counselor Jamie Gollaher reported over \$52,000 in local scholarships, funded by individuals, businesses, and organizations, were awarded to members of the LHS Class of '26. In addition, there will be a total of \$42,638 in Hardin Scholarships awarded to some of this year's graduates and other recent LHS graduates continuing their education.

This year's graduating class all made the Honor Roll (GPA of 3.0+) as seniors and the majority of them graduated with a cumulative grade point average over 2.5. The Association wishes these students and the entire Class of 2026, which was 41 strong, the absolute best in the years ahead!



Will Chidster



Madilynn Jenkins



Gwendelynn Reed



Shyann Shade



Reese Wommack

Lamé Scholarships Awarded

In January 2023 Ken Lamé (LHS '59) indicated he and his wife wished to continue funding the two scholarships for LHS seniors in their names. But it was their desire to have our Association's scholarship committee, who know the students, make the selection of the winners and handle all coordination with the school. The Association agreed to do as the Lamés requested. The Elizabeth Travis Lamé Family Memorial Nursing Scholarship was awarded to **Garrett Santiago** who plans to attend Moberly Area Community College-Hannibal/online to complete his gen ed classes then transfer to Maryville University to obtain his Bachelor of Science in Nursing. **Michela Lesley** was selected as the recipient of The Kenneth D. and Ruth Dodge Lamé STEM Scholarship given in honor of Mrs. Ellen Morrow. Michela plans to attend Moberly Area Community College to complete gen ed and prerequisite courses to attend the State Fair Community College (Sedalia) Dental Hygiene program. Both scholarships are for \$2,000.



Garrett Santiago



Michela Lesley

Meloan Family Trust Scholarships Awarded

In 2022 Fred Meloan (LHS '55) established an ongoing scholarship. It was his desire to recognize the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of each year's graduating class. The Valedictorian of the Class of 2026, therefore the recipient of the Meloan Family Trust Scholarship in the amount of \$4,000, was **Alivia Perrine**. She plans to attend Missouri University of Science and Technology-Rolla and major in biology. She plans to pursue a career as a wildlife biologist at the St. Louis Zoo or become an OBGYN ultrasound technician. The Salutatorian of the Class of 2026 and the recipient of a \$2,700 Meloan Scholarship was **Alyssa Christensen**. She plans to attend Moberly Area Community College-Hannibal/online to obtain her associate's degree in nursing after which she plans to transfer to the University of Missouri-Columbia to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



Alivia Perrine



Alyssa Christensen

Morrow and Gierke Scholarships Awarded

The recipient of the 2026 Ellen Morrow Memorial Math Scholarship, administered and selected by the Alumni Association, was **Alivia Perrine**. Alivia plans to attend Missouri University of Science and Technology-Rolla and major in biology. She plans to pursue a career as a wildlife biologist at the St. Louis Zoo or become an OBGYN ultrasound technician. This scholarship, named after a long-time LHS math teacher, goes to the top math student and is in the amount of \$1,500. The Association's scholarship committee selected **Alyssa Christensen** for the 2026 Gierke Family Memorial Scholarship. Alyssa plans to attend Moberly Area Community College-Hannibal/online to obtain her associate's degree in nursing after which she plans to transfer to the University of Missouri-Columbia to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her overarching goal is to become an IVF/fertility nurse. This scholarship memorializes brothers Jacob and Christian Gierke and their father, Jim, who was the former owner of the Louisiana Press-Journal. This \$2,000 scholarship is administered by the Missouri Press Association.

DO SOMETHING TODAY THAT YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU FOR.

*Our actions and decisions today will shape
the way we will be living in the future.*

FFA Chapter Continues to Excel

The 2025–2026 school year will truly go down in the memory books for the Louisiana Agriculture Department and FFA Chapter. From our very first meeting, it was clear this would be a special year filled with growth, leadership, and opportunity. Our chapter welcomed many new members alongside dedicated returning members who eagerly stepped up to participate and lead from the very beginning.

In October at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana, members proudly walked across the stage to receive recognition for being named a National Three-Star Chapter, one of the highest honors a chapter can achieve. This honor is based upon the National Chapter Application, which a chapter must fill out each year. The application takes fifteen events the chapter has participated in during the year and has you focus on nine of those. For the nine events, the chapter must set goals, put together a plan of action, and write up impact and advancing leaders' statements.

During the National FFA Convention, our students also had the opportunity to connect with members from across the country as Miss Flowers served as a National FFA Teacher Ambassador. Serving as a National FFA Teacher Ambassador is a huge honor. As an ambassador, Miss Flowers has served as a voice for the National FFA organization among other FFA advisors and members. She has worked on building a platform to share about FFA programs, educator resources, and so much more.

Throughout the year, students developed valuable life skills and explored hands-on opportunities in welding, woodworking, entrepreneurship, food safety, and more. Our members have traveled far and near to make lifetime memories, from National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, to assisting the Pike County Young Farmers and Ranchers at Farm Safety Day at the fairgrounds, to the Area V FFA Banquet at Elsberry High School, and even the State FFA Convention in Columbia, on Mizzou's beautiful campus.

At the State Convention in April at Mizzou, the chapter's hard work and active involvement paid off as we were recognized as the 9th-ranked chapter in the state out of more than 350 chapters. This is a remarkable recognition for our chapter, seeing that we were ranked 26th the year before. Just like the 3-star recognition at the national level, this recognition happens based on our National Chapter Application. The slate of judges will read through all the applications and rate chapters: gold, silver, or bronze. Gold is reserved for the top 10% (36 chapters), and then out of those, they apply a ranking. Earning this recognition truly showcased how much work our chapter puts in throughout the year.

Our members are not only building a brand but also leaving behind a lasting legacy. All alumni, especially former FFA members, should be extremely proud!

Louisiana Athletic Hall of Fame

The LHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2026 was announced late this June. Their induction ceremony will take place on Senior Night, Friday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. prior to the football game. A reception for the inductees and their invited guests will be held at 5 p.m. that day in the LHS Commons. Below are the Class of 2026 members and highlights of their athletic accomplishments: **Kevin Chatman** – graduated LHS in 1980. Kevin earned All-Conference honors in football, basketball and track, All-District in football and basketball, and All-State honors in football. **Kelly Henderson** – graduated from LHS in 1982. Kelly earned All-Conference in football and track, All-District in football and track, and All-State honors in football. **Amelia Wallace Kohler** – graduated LHS in 2011. Amelia earned All-Conference and All-District in basketball and track, and All-State in track 2009-2011. She broke the school record for the 400m dash and helped set new school records in the 4 x 200m relay and 4 x 400m relay. **Daneal Wommack** – graduated from LHS in 2000. Daneal earned All-Conference in football, basketball and track, All-District in football and track, and All-State in track. He held the 110m hurdles school record for 23 years and still holds the 300m hurdles record and was a member of the record-holding 4 x 200m relay team.

The criteria for eligibility and the nomination form can be found on the high school's website under the Athletics tab

http://lhs.louisiana.k12.mo.us/athletics/bulldog_hall_of_fame or by contacting Ryan Griffin by phone at 573-721-7964 or by email at griffinr@louisiana.k12.mo.us.

Louisiana R-II Staff Retirements



Dr. Tom Ward, Superintendent, Geneva Martinson, Benita Asquith, Marlo Hunn, Jenna Lynn Loveless, School Board Pres.

Benita Asquith began with the district in 1991 as a latch-key coordinator (before and after school program) for two years but spent most of her time with our district as a paraprofessional in Special Education. When asked about the biggest changes in education since she started, Benita indicated there were many more students in special education now and there were also so many new rules and regulations. And the paperwork has gotten so voluminous. Her favorite thing has been to see the progress each student makes when learning new things. During her tenure, she worked with eight different teachers and 10 different principals which was challenging.

Marlo Hunn began teaching in 1998 at Wellsville-Middletown where she taught for 17 years before coming to Louisiana R-II for the last 11 years. She has taught pre-K, early childhood special education, kindergarten and first grade. When asked why she chose to enter education, she replied to make a positive difference in the lives of young children. As an elementary student, Hunn watched her younger brother struggle in school and there were only a few select teachers who made a positive difference. She wanted to be like those teachers and be the teacher who made positive connections with children, made learning fun while holding high expectations of them and helping children be the best they could be. Hunn's highlight of her time at Louisiana elementary has been watching children take baby steps to achieve so many milestones in their development and being a part of their success. The biggest changes she noticed has been the increased curriculum expectations teachers are expected to teach. She also mentioned an increase in misbehavior and disrespect of students made the classroom environment more challenging. Marlo said administrative changes at LES were a challenge.

Geneva Martinson started in education as a fifth-grade teacher at Meriwether School during its last year of operation in 1995-1996. Then she taught Spanish at LHS for two years, 25 years as a 3rd grade teacher ("I consider myself a 3rd grade teacher") and the last three years as a Title I (math) teacher in the elementary school. When asked why she chose education, Geneva said growing up she liked school and had many good teachers so wanted to be a positive influence on young children as her teachers had been. Changes in education she noted were the use of technology and how fast-paced things are now. Through the years, she viewed her biggest challenge was getting to know what works for students in this year's class as it was always different than last year's class. Geneva's highlights were having students then seeing their children come along years later plus having her students pursue education and returning to Louisiana to teach.

Where Are They Now???



Miss Delores Davis

This year we feature Miss Delores Davis, an educator who spent 31 years teaching in Louisiana schools in every grade but kindergarten. Born in Monroe City, Davis thought nursing was her calling until she visited Blessing Hospital and saw big bottles of blood on the shelf. She attended Holy Rosary High School in Monroe City, playing basketball under six-player rules and softball in summers. She graduated from Northeast Missouri State Teachers' College in Kirksville (now Truman State University), initially planning to major in math.

An English instructor serving as her advisor didn't know how to guide a math program, so she turned her focus to physical education.

Knowing she was a "homebody," Davis decided to go far from home to prove she could make it on her own. She interviewed in Los Angeles and Milwaukee, accepting whichever contract arrived first. She taught two years in the Los Angeles district, then decided to move closer to home. Fortunately for us, there was an opening in Louisiana in 1966. She met Mr. Bailey, the superintendent, and the rest is history.

Delores taught PE, health, and language arts in ninth grade. A bit of a trailblazer as a female PE teacher, she shared a funny story from her early tenure. Her first assignment included teaching first graders, 30-35 students. They were going to play a game requiring a circle. She said, "Now let's make a circle." They went 30+ different directions. Thinking quickly, she had them stand still, line up one behind the other, took one student's hand and walked until she reached the last one. There you have it, a circle!

Asked about her fondest memories from 31 years in Louisiana, Davis said students were always her priority. It was exciting to see some excel, but equally exciting to see those with physical disabilities continue trying their best and extend the possibilities of what they could do.

Among colleagues, she especially valued Dorothy Webb, who took in new young teachers and mentored them. "Such a good teacher, such a friend and full of puns." She also couldn't go without mentioning Tony Gschwender. If you see Tony, ask about the gymnastics unit he taught with Miss Davis. They created a wall chart with stars to show student progress during a unit on gymnastics. Students kept touching their stars, knocking them off. Tony and Delores had to put them back on again and again until they realized they'd never do that again!

Davis coached basketball a couple of years but said it wasn't her forté. Girls volleyball was another sport she coached, and her team won districts the last year she coached.

After retiring from Louisiana, Delores continued managing the Monroe City swimming pool, which she'd done since 1969. Before starting, she didn't know how to swim. She learned quickly and taught swimming and life-saving lessons, stopping in 2000. She then taught preparation for high school equivalency diplomas, mostly at the Methodist Church in Bowling Green through 2023. Math was her favorite subject to teach.

For hobbies, Delores taught herself guitar, though she's recently given it up due to her fingers not working as well. She's always been involved in her church, St. Clement in Bowling Green, working on retreats for adults and teenagers. She's enjoyed traveling, camping in Montana's Glacier National Park and Colorado's Rocky Mountains in Estes Park.

Delores ended by saying the most important thing she continues to do is to be with and for her family. If you'd like to say Hi to Miss Davis, her email is orfanany@sbcglobal.net.

SCAM WARNING! Beware of scams posing as our Association via email and Facebook (from "Louisiana Alumni" or similar). They offer memberships and sell merchandise. DO NOT pay dues or purchase items from them. They are NOT the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association.



LHS Band Is Growing and Excelling!

The Louisiana Bulldog Brigade Marching Band has been under the direction of David Opperman, Director of Bands, and Haley Martin, Assistant Band/Color Guard Director, for the last two school years. The Bulldog Brigade included 35 instrumentalists and 5 color guard members this past year. They perform at all home football games as well as parades and field show competitions.

Awards earned by the band in Fall 2025 were 1st place in the Pittsfield parade, 3rd place 1A Class Wildcat Marching Festival, 3rd place Fountain City Classic, 1st place the Elsberry Fall Festival and best color guard, 1st place battle of the bands during the Applefest parade in Clarksville, 1st place, best guard, best percussion and overall best drum major at the Sounds of Gold Marching Festival, and 2nd place Clark County Marching Festival. During Fall 2024, band awards earned were 1st place in its class at the Sounds of Gold Marching Festival, 2nd place in the Elsberry Fall Festival, 2nd place band and 1st place Guard in Louisiana's Colorfest parade, and 1st place in Clarksville's Applefest parade.

The band received straight 1s/Exemplary at the Spring 2026 large ensemble concert state contest held in Park Hills. This is the highest honor that can be received. Nine LHS band members performed in the EMO Conference band.

The Music department also put on the musical "The Addams Family" with outstanding success! This utilized primarily middle and high school choir students. The middle school choir doubled its enrollment this past year over the prior year. Six LHS students performed in the EMO Conference choir.

The Marching Band includes students in grades 8 through 12. The numbers of students in band in grades 6 and 7 continue to increase, totaling 32 this past year. Based on this, it is expected that Marching Band numbers will increase to 55 in 2026-2027 and Mr. Opperman projects 75 students in the band for 2027-2028.

It makes LHS alumni proud to not only see the number of students involved in the Marching Band and Choir increasing but also to see their enthusiasm and hear and see their excellence when performing. Congratulations and Thank You Mr. Opperman!



Moved? Changed your email address?

If you move or change your email, please inform us to keep our roster of Louisiana school attendees accurate. If you receive this newsletter by mail but have an active email, send your email, full name (including maiden name), and graduation year to LouisianaAlumni@yahoo.com to save on printing costs. Also, inform the alumni association of any changes to your mailing address or that of your family members.



Dr. Tom Ward
Louisiana R-II
Superintendent

News from our Superintendent

Visiting Dr. Tom Ward in late May, he began by sharing good news about the district. In April, the voters overwhelmingly approved a no-tax increase bond issue for \$1.5 million. 83% voted in favor of the bond issue which Ward believes shows strong support of the district by the patrons.

Much of the money will go toward district electrical upgrades. The elementary school's electrical panel will be replaced, electrical service will be increased in both the current middle school and the Ag building to improve safety with the added technological and equipment needs in those buildings.

Other improvements planned include upgrading safety and security of the various buildings, repaving parking lots on all campuses, and addressing the drainage issue off the football field which causes ponding at the main entrance to the middle/high school campus. Included in the safety and security category will be upgraded and additional cameras around the exterior of the buildings. New doors will replace old ones (original doors in many cases) if they can be found. The doors have been on the "to-do" list in previous bond issues, but no one bid on them. It seems they may be available now.

Dr. Ward expressed pleasure that the alumni will be holding their reunion events at the high school this year. (See details on the front page of this newsletter.) While talking about the alumni reunion events at the high school, he mentioned there are plans to have a band festival at the school that day. Ward lit up while talking about the district's band. He said that the LHS/LMS band instructor, Mr. Opperman, has done a tremendous job during his two-year tenure. The growth in student participation in band has skyrocketed. This past year there were 45 students in the band (grades 8 through 12) and 32 in grades 6 and 7 combined. The upcoming year it appears that grades 8-12 numbers will increase to 55 and Ward said Mr. Opperman projects 75 students in band in the 2027-2028 school year. Keep in mind, the enrollment for grades 8 – 12 currently totals 219.

When asked about staffing, Ward indicated he had all but one teaching job filled for the coming year. High school science remains unfilled. District-wide there are six positions which are currently filled by long-term, certified substitute teachers who are working to receive their full teacher certification from the state in their subject area. He interviewed 3 for Activities Director and chose Jennifer Gschwender.

Dr. Ward was asked about the financial health of our school district. He indicated "we're in good shape." At the end of June, he projects the district carryover into the '26-'27 school year to be 30-31% of the district's annual expenses. Our school board has set the target carryover to be 25%. He then began talking about the challenges the state is putting on local school districts.

The State of Missouri established what's known as the SAT, State Adequacy Target. This is the amount of money needed by districts to properly (adequately) educate one student. In 2025-2026 that figure was \$7,145 per student. The State has only paid the district \$6,830 per student this past year. That translates into a shortfall of \$190,000 from "full funding" by the State. This shortfall is largely due to the State significantly overestimating the amount of revenue from the lottery.

When this newsletter was written, the State budget for the coming fiscal year was on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. Ward said the Governor has until June 30 to sign it, but he can delete line items on a whim. Our district's budget is due to be finalized in June.

District superintendents have been told by their association to expect / budget for 2026-2027 on receiving the same \$6,830 per student but Ward said he's built the district's budget using \$6,740.

A task force made up of DESE (Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education) staff, former superintendents, etc. has been working to establish a new formula to set the SAT figure going forward. The task force's report is due to the Governor soon. From superintendent conference calls, Ward understands the new formula will have a lower per student figure from the State therefore lean heavier on local contributions to be increased. It is Dr. Ward's practice to build budgets out for five years. In doing so, he has used a 2% increase in expenditures. If the state funding is flat, our carryover percentage will dip to 27% on 6/30/27, 23-24% on 6/30/28, 19% on 6/30/29, etc. Therefore, we would drop below the district's carryover target of 25% by 6/30/28.

With 73% of the district's annual budget being in salaries and benefits, there are not many options available but to reduce staff. Ward acknowledges that doing so hurts children's education. We can hope State funding increases some going forward to avoid the possibility of increasing the tax levy.

Federal funding is also being reduced. Ward was told our district no longer meets the criteria for Title 5 funding in '26-'27. That is a \$45,000 hit which had previously covered the salary of a teacher.

Uncertainty is quite high at the Federal level and in Missouri as well. The district is scheduled to go through the MSIP (Missouri School Improvement Plan) 6 district evaluation process starting this fall. Governor Kehoe has requested districts be given grades of A through F, so the public better understands the results of the district's evaluation. The legislature did not pass that legislation, but the Governor has issued an Executive Order. The criteria by which districts will be evaluated were due from DESE by June. Will the criteria be the same as MSIP 6 or will it change right before Louisiana begins to be evaluated? On top of that, the Commissioner of DESE has resigned and a search for her replacement has begun. What changes might that bring about?

Dr. Ward believes the upcoming legislative session will be very important. The Governor is in favor of vouchers (pays tuition for students to attend a private school or a district other than the one in which they live) and open enrollment/school choice. The proposed state budget for the coming year, awaiting Gov. Kehoe's approval, increases the amount budgeted for vouchers from \$50 million to \$60 million. Ward hopes Louisiana alumni and all stakeholders will actively participate in letting their voices be heard by our legislators. It was stated that in 1969 the district's enrollment was 1400, now it stands at 680.

Ward reiterated what the LHS counselor had shared with every group evaluating scholarship applications, the Class of 2026 was overall a very high achieving group. How high? All seniors made the honor roll! In addition, the LHS junior and senior students attending Pike-Lincoln Technical Center (PLTC) had the highest combined GPA of any of the seven school districts who send students to PLTC.

LHS ALAMO Yearbooks are Online

Don't forget you can view any of the LHS ALAMO yearbooks through 2016 online. These were scanned a handful of years ago and it is by far the most viewed page of the Alumni Association's website. The website page where the yearbooks can be viewed is www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org/alamos_yearbooks.

Helping Our School District



Your Alumni Association had to tighten the purse strings this year due to a dip in our general funds. We did manage to snag a half-page in the ALAMO yearbook for \$125 and tossed \$100 towards the After-Prom Party to keep our kiddos celebrating safely. Sadly, we couldn't hand out \$25 to each classroom teacher for out-of-pocket classroom supplies, which we'd been doing for a couple of years. Plus, we hit pause on our usual shout-outs to the R-II staff during their special recognition days. Here's hoping for more donations to boost our budget for '26-'27.

DONATIONS MADE TO THE LHS ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association appreciates memorials and honorariums which specifically support the Scholarship Fund. These allow scholarships to be awarded to LHS seniors. General donations support the business of our Association. All donations are tax-deductible. You may send donations to PO Box 404, Louisiana, MO 63353, or donate online at www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org/donate/. A list of donations received from July 2025 to June 2026 follows.

In Memory of **Alfred Baumann**
from Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Andy Johnson**
from Allen Johnson

In Memory of **Annette Parsons**
from Class of 1965

In Memory of **Barbara Crow**
from Rebecca Wood

In Memory of **Beatrice (Bea) Goodin**
from Cheryl & Steve LaRue

In Memory of **Becky Jamieson Allen**
from Alberta Robbins

In Memory of **Betty L. Peecher**
from Sandy Orf, Louisiana R-II School District, Pam Todd, Kathleen Johnson-Miller

In Memory of **Brian Perkins**
from Jill & William Perkins

In Memory of **Charla Kay (Sudy) York Jenkins** from Sandy Orf, Gail & Gerald W. Smith, Joyce L. Robey

In Memory of **Charles Ray Clarkson**
from Connie W. Mowen

In Memory of **Christopher (Chris) Jay Wheeler**
from Pam Todd, Class of 1980

In Memory of **Cindy Perkins**
from Jill & William Perkins

In Memory of **Class of 1953 Deceased and Living Classmates**
from Class of 1953

In Memory of **Connie Chatman**
from Pam Todd

In Memory of **David E. Woods**
from Jesse E. Woods

In Memory of **Donald E. Stoddard** from Carolyn Sanderson, Lori & Artie Stoddard, Pam Stoddard & Family, Kim & Jeffrey Stoddard & Son, Harry Stoddard, Charles E. Stoddard & Family, Amanda & Kenneth Stoddard & Family, Betsy (Stoddard) & Andres Collins

In Memory of **Donna Pitzer**
from John N. Sitton

In Memory of **Dorothy (Dottie) J. Brown Murray** from John N. Sitton, Pam Todd, Sandy Orf, Linda L. Ince

In Memory of **Dr. Glenn Miles**
from John N. Sitton

In Memory of **Gail Shaw**
from Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Gary L. Robbins**
from Alberta Robbins

In Memory of **Gerald Beer**
from Henrietta Robinson

In Memory of **Glenda Dowell**
from Class of 1965

In Memory of **Harry Elliott**
from Sue Troutner, Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Hayden Adkison**
from Sandy Orf

In Memory of **Hilda Beer Teague**
from Henrietta Robinson

In Memory of **Jan Edwards**
from Pam Todd, Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Janet Garner**
from Ruth & Kenneth Lamé

In Memory of **Janet Robbins Welker**
from Alberta Robbins

In Memory of **Jean Eastman**
from Pam Todd

In Memory of **JoAnn Reynolds Minor**
from Class of 1975

In Memory of **John Murray**
from Sandy Orf

In Memory of **John Preston Lewellen**
from A.E. Gene Todd, Sue Troutner

In Memory of **John Wesley Dillender**
from Stella Anne Maly

In Memory of **Kenneth Stark**
from Kenneth & Ruth Lamé

In Memory of **LHS Class of 1959**
from Kenneth & Ruth Lamé

In Memory of **Linda L. Ince**
from Carolyn Sanderson, Lori & Artie Stoddard, Pam Stoddard & Family, Kim & Jeffrey Stoddard & Son

In Memory of **Linda Meyers**
from Connie W. Mowen

In Memory of **Lucy Convy Sheppard**
from Sandy Orf, Cindy Blaylock, Doris & Bryce Love

In Memory of **Martha Sue Smith**
from Sue Troutner, Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Mary Chatman**
from Cindy Blaylock

In Memory of **Nathan C. Love**
from Pam Todd, Stephanie & Jerry Browning, Jill & William Perkins

In Memory of **Ovalta Bell**
from Sandy Orf

In Memory of **Peggy Parker Goodner**
from Class of 1966

In Memory of **Robert (Bob) Gillett**
from Shirley Penrod

In Memory of **Robert F. (Bob) Elder** from Class of 1973, Rebecca Wood, Cindy Blaylock, Charles Stewart, Gail & Gerald W. Smith

In Memory of **Robin Calvin Benjamin**
from Jana Muff

In Memory of **Roger D. Beer**
from Class of 1965

In Memory of **Roger M. Parker**
from Class of 1965

In Memory of **Sharon L. (Muff) Love** from Pam Todd, Gail & Gerald W. Smith, Jaclyn M. McGuire, Cindy Blaylock, The Ed Muff Family, Doris & Bryce Love

In Memory of the **Gierke Family** (Jim, Jacob and Christian)
from Mark Kucera

In Memory of **Valerie Love Shriver**
from Christina Penrod Ray

In Memory of **Walter Cropp**
from Pam Todd

Donation to the **Ellen G. Morrow Math Scholarship** from Mark Kucera, David Mitts, Henry Pierce, Shell Oil Matching Gifts

Donation to the **Alumni Scholarship Fund**
from Danny R. Hockaday

General Donations from Marshall Bishop, Gary Roberts, Melody & Denny DeWeese, Cathy Beckett, Robert (Bob) Fritz, George Rick Allen, Sally Dinwiddie, Charles Ludwig, John E. Wallace, Bill Sterne, Charles (Butch) C. Elgin, Trina Ferling, Jesse E. Woods, Brent Gierke, David Mitts, Ben Logan, Virginia Wood, Caterpillar Foundation Match, Class of 1947

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Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association

P. O. Box 404, Louisiana, MO 63353 | www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org

Alumni Social and Dinner — Saturday, October 17, 2026

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ LHS Grad Year: _____

☐ New/changed address or email - Email _____

Please find enclosed:

\$ _____ Financial Support Donation (☐ Check here if your company will match)

\$ _____ Alumni Dinner Reservation(s) \$25/person (Due by October 3) No. & Names attending:

- _____
- _____

\$ _____ Scholarship Donation in memory/honor of:

- _____

\$ _____ TOTAL (Return form + payment by October 3!)

Pay by check (mail to address above) or via Venmo/PayPal on our website.

Make your reservation today for the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association Reunion.



From the desk of Craig Smith, LHS Principal....

As we close another remarkable school year here at Louisiana High School, we take great pride in reflecting on the accomplishments, growth, and success of our staff, students, and community. This year has been filled with high achievement both inside and outside the classroom, as Louisiana continues to move forward as a "District with a Rich Tradition."

Our Bulldog Band showcased extraordinary talent and commitment excelling in competitions and earning top ratings for their performances during the competition season. Their hard work, discipline, and Bulldog Pride were on display on the road and at Bulldog home events.

Our athletic programs experienced tremendous success throughout the year. Across all athletic programs, numerous student-athletes earned Eastern Missouri Conference, district, and all-state recognition for their accomplishments and leadership. Louisiana had a student representative on the Missouri State High School Activities Association Student Advisory committee. This student attended zoom and in-person meetings with students from across the state to ensure student voices were heard at MSHSAA when it comes to activities our students participate in on a yearly basis.

Beyond athletics and activities, our students continued to excel academically. We are proud to report improvements in academic achievement and student performance throughout the district. Attendance rates have continued to improve, reflecting the dedication of LHS students, families, and staff to making education a priority each day.

The fine arts continued to shine as LHS band director Mr. Opperman brought back our school play after a year hiatus. The play brought students together to deliver 2 outstanding performances that highlighted student creativity and confidence. The success of the play demonstrates the incredible range of talent within the LHS and LMS student body and the dedication of those who support the arts. The annual fine arts night showcased the incredible talents of LHS art students with the work they have been working on all year in various art classes.

Our FFA chapter enjoyed another successful year, with students earning recognition in competitions, leadership events, and AG programs. These accomplishments reflect the hard work and commitment of students and advisor, Ms. Flowers, who continues to uphold the strong tradition of AG education and leadership at LHS. Not only were individuals recognized for their accomplishments, but the entire chapter was recognized as one of the top ten chapters in the state of Missouri.

Finally, this year also marked an important step forward for our district as our community came together to support the passing of a school improvement bond issue. We are deeply grateful for the trust and investment shown by our voters. These improvements will enhance school facilities, strengthen safety and security measures, and provide future generations of students with expanded opportunities to learn and grow in a safe and modern environment.

Congratulations Class of 2026 on all you have accomplished here at LHS and thank you for setting a strong example of what it takes to be a Bulldog! Remember, Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog

Thank you to our students, families, staff, alumni, and community members for your continued support of the Louisiana School District. Together, we celebrate a year filled with achievement, growth, and Bulldog pride, and we look forward with excitement to what the future holds for all at Louisiana School District.

LOUISIANA ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 404

Louisiana, MO 63353

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date

All School Reunion | **October 17, 2026**



Bulldog Boosters Continue Their Support

The Louisiana Bulldog Boosters remain committed to enhancing the experience of Louisiana student-athletes by providing resources and opportunities that go beyond what school budgets can typically support. Thanks to the generosity of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and community supporters, the Booster Club approved more than **\$21,000 in funding requests during the 2025-26 school year**, benefiting a wide range of athletic programs and student activities.

Highlights of purchases and support this year included:

- **HS Football** — travel meals and game-day snacks
- **HS Boys Basketball** — practice jerseys and team gear (including Bowling Green Tournament sponsorship)
- **HS Girls Basketball** — travel suits and equipment support (including Bowling Green Tournament sponsorship)
- **MS Cheer** - shoes and poms
- **MS Girls Softball** — team jerseys
- **Trap Shooting** — clay birds and supplies
- **Baseball** — hats, a pitching machine, and ballpark improvements
- **Swim & Track** — state/sectional support and team meals
- **Student Activities** — After Prom support and fundraiser supplies; Yearbook advertisement

These investments are powered by volunteers, and we'd love to add more helping hands. If you can spare a few hours a month, there are roles in purchasing, planning, communications, and event support—every bit helps keep opportunities growing for our student-athletes.

Our biggest ongoing need is concession stand staffing, which is also a key source of Booster Club funding. Individuals and local businesses are welcome to help cover shifts throughout the year—whether you can join regularly or volunteer once in a while.

To get involved, email boosters@louisiana.k12.mo.us or follow us on Facebook at “Louisiana Bulldog Boosters”.