

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

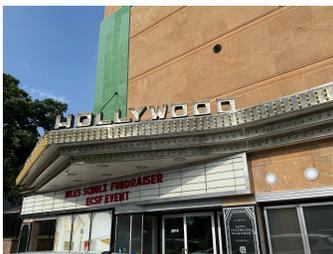
Niles Schulz Scholarship Fundraiser - June 8, 2026



Please save the date! Niles Schulz Scholarship Fundraiser June 8, 2026 6:00pm Social hour -7:00pm Dinner

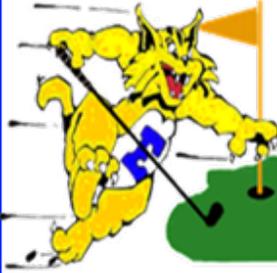
We are so excited to let you know we will be hosting our annual Niles Schulz Scholarship dinner to raise money for our scholarships for the 2026 Edison recipients. The event will take place at the Hollywood Theater located at 2815 Johnson Street NE, Minneapolis. Tickets are \$50 and will include dinner and entertainment by Edison Jazz Ensemble! We will be having a silent auction and wine raffle and a split the pot drawing to raise money for the scholarships.

We hope to have all the recipients of the scholarships present for you to meet and will be honoring our Distinguished alumni as well. Please contact Mary Dalbec at 763-245-0299 if you are interested in buying a ticket, donating to the silent auction or want to be a sponsor of this great event. You may also reach out to any ECSF Board Member to get your tickets. If you are unable to attend and want to help, donations can be made via check or on our website. To find out more information call Mary or email us at edisoncsf@aol.com. We hope you can make it as it is always a great way to reconnect with alumni. All are welcome to our most wonderful event of the year! It is a fantastic event you won't want to miss and great way to reconnect with many fellow alumni who attend each year!



TOMMIE SPIRIT

Registration for the 2026 Golf Tournament



The 2026 Edison Community and Sports Foundation Golf Scramble will be held at Columbia Golf Course on July 27, 2026. Dinner will follow the tournament at Murzyn Hall. Follow @ECSFGOLF on X, “Like” the Edison Community & Sports Foundation Facebook page and watch the upcoming newsletter for details and updates. Registration is open at ecsf.org/golf. Scan the below QR code to get the Tournament site.

Tee off will be at 10:00 for the scramble with dinner to follow at Murzyn Hall. We have an early bird registration fee of \$130 until June 15th after that the fee is \$140. In addition, there are new sponsorship opportunities.

Here is a rundown of the registration options:

Sponsorships:

***Hole Sponsor** - Sign on a tee box- \$150

***Beverage Cart** - Sign on Beverage cart and recognition in the program - \$250

***Practice & Contest Putting Green** - \$250

***Blue** - Includes Medium sized Banner displayed prominently, website presence and recognition in our newsletter - \$500

***Gold** - Includes Large Banner recognition in program, website and our newsletter - \$1,000

***Showcase Cart Sponsor** – Decorated themed cart (sponsor choice), raffle opportunity for golfers to use cart, Logo on website and printed program, Logo in ECSF Newsletter - \$1,000

***Blue & Gold Signature Gift Sponsor** - Large Banner, recognition in program, website and our newsletter, Foursome entry fees and dinner (includes 2 carts), your logo/info on choice of swag select item (golf towel, divot repair, string backpack or golf balls) - \$2,500

***Tommy Elite Sponsor**- Large Banner, recognition in program and during the program, website and our newsletter and a sign on a tee box and beverage cart. Foursome entry fees and dinner (includes 2 carts), your logo/info on your choice of swag select item (golf towel, divot repair, string backpack or golf balls) - \$5,000

***Edison Premier Tournament Sponsor**- Have the tournament named after you or your company large Banner, recognition in program and during the program, website and our newsletter and a sign on a tee box and beverage cart. (2) Foursomes entry fees and dinners (includes 4 carts), your logo/info on your choice of swag select item (golf towel, divot repair, string backpack or golf balls) - \$10,000.

This tournament welcomes golfers of all abilities (my team typically finishes at or near the bottom), but we will also be looking for opportunities for non-golfers to participate. If you would like to volunteer as a non-golfer, reach out to me at the email address below. There is also a “Dinner Only” option for \$25 on the registration page, as always.

For those that have participated in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. For those that haven’t, this is a great opportunity to reconnect with old classmates, alumni, and friends of Edison High School, enjoy a beautiful day in the Minnesota summer sun, and raise money for the many scholarships and programs that ECSF funds. Please remember this is a fundraiser.

For questions reach out to: Bernie Kunza, berniekunza@gmail.com



Correction - The Gerry Espe donation listed in the Winter 2025 newsletter was in honor of the '68 Wrestling team

Anonymous message:

Thank You to Michael Warne for his diligent and kind efforts made to research and put together the information for the Edison Heroes website (the website is www.edisonheroes.com), Plaques and 2025 Veterans Day event.

Scholar Spotlight



Do you follow TPT on social media? You might recognize Connor Arenson, Class of 2019 and an ECSF scholarship recipient. A Grinnell College history graduate, Connor began building his storytelling career in high school.

While in high school and college, he created and grew the YouTube channel *History House Productions*, generating more than 7 million views. After graduation, he earned a competitive Fulbright Scholarship and spent a year in Warsaw studying how digital media shapes perceptions of Polish history.

Connor is now a Digital Producer at Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), creating digital content that promotes TPT productions and brings Minnesota history to life. He credits the Edison Theater Program and the International Baccalaureate Program with laying the foundation for his success. The Edison Community & Sports Foundation supports Edison scholars through scholarships and programming. **Make a gift today to help support the next generation of Edison scholars.**

Have a Scholar to spotlight? Send information to edisoncsf@aol.com.

Edison Principal Update - March 2026

Greetings from Edison High School! Here are a few updates from the home of the Tommies:

State Competitors

We are so proud that 3 Edison Athletes recently advanced to the State competition in Nordic Skiing and Wrestling. Sergei Viskovatykh competed in the State Nordic Skiing competition for the 3rd year in a row; he finished 40th out of 111 skiers. Reymie Keenan (who is also this year's Athena Award winner) and Vito Lopez-Marsh, qualified for State Girls and Boys Wrestling, respectively. As this update goes to press, we are preparing to our Wrestlers them off to their meet on Wednesday, February 25th (our Drumline and Band will play them out with the necessary fanfare).



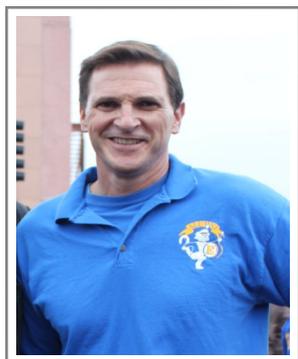
Impact of Enforcement

Increased immigration enforcement in the Twin Cities over the past 2 months has had a significant impact on learning. Many families, even those who are citizens or are properly pursuing a legal path to citizenship, have been or fear being detained. Others are concerned about unsafe conditions on our city streets. On January 14th, the district began to offer online learning for students who needed to stay safe at home; we had originally hoped to end that option on February 13th, but because of continued concerns, online learning has been extended until April 6th. About half of our students are attending school in person, while half are learning online. Hybrid teaching is taxing for teachers, and our students miss being together. The Edison Activity Council has raised over \$75,000 in mutual aid, which is helping many families meet their basic needs during this time. Our staff has donated their time to shopping for supplies, delivering meals and school supplies, and reaching out to families to check on their welfare. Community members voluntarily patrol the area around Edison to help keep students and families safe.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the incredible, generous members of our community who have pulled together to support others during this time. Tommies are a team!

We look forward to a safe and celebratory Spring season.

Thanks to our alumni for your continued support of Edison High School. Go, Tommies!



In Memory Of...

- Paul Alexander
- David Allen, '54
- Stanley Anderson, '55
- Rita Andrescik, '56,
Teacher
- Roger Barrett, '53
- Patricia Bergstrom (Kehn-
Clark)
- Genevieve Chock
(Michurski), '50
- Danita (Dani) Jean
Connors-Smith, '65
- Chuck Corey, '62
- Robert Gliniany, '73
- Carol Graham (Nelson)
- William (Bill)
Hendrickson, '66
- George Holm, '45
- Mary Jaszewski
(Kostek), '50
- Desmond Clifford
Jones, '00
- Eleanor H. (Nevala)
Meyer, '84
- Mike Milliren
- David Moore, Teacher
- Nancy O'Hara (Rondeau),
'61
- Spencer (Spike)
Sokolowski, '48
- Irene Steffenson (Jensen),
Jan '46
- Richard Vana, Principal



Letter from President Iacarella

Greetings Fellow Tommie Alumni and Friends of Edison High School,

My dad once told me that you should cherish the time you have with the people you admire, because your time with them will never feel long enough—and you may regret the moments you didn't take. That advice has been on my mind lately, as we mourn the loss of four remarkable members of the Edison family who gave so much to the character and spirit of our school.

We have recently said goodbye to Craig Vana, David Moore, Rita Andrescik, and Mike Doyle—four people whose influence reached far beyond the halls of Edison and touched thousands of students, colleagues, alumni, and community members. Each of them brought something uniquely powerful to Edison, and together they helped shape the culture that so many of us still carry with pride. Their absence leaves a real void.

Craig Vana

Craig Vana served as Edison's principal from 1993 to 1998, and he was a longtime Northeast resident and a devoted pillar of St. Charles Parish since 1970. My first connection to Craig was as my 8th grade basketball coach—in my first year as a player and his first year as a coach, we won the city championship. Years later, he re-entered my life in a meaningful way when he hired me to teach business classes at Edison in 1994.

Craig led with vision and steady commitment. In 1994, he worked with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce to launch the Voyager Program, designed to connect students interested in business with real-world experiences through partnerships with businesses, colleges, and educators. Students gained exposure to career pathways

and learned the soft skills needed to succeed. The program earned national recognition and continued for 30 years—a lasting legacy of opportunity. Many of us also remember the immense challenge of the "Great Flood" of 1997, when a wall of water surged through the northeast corner of the school, flooding the basement and extending across toward the gym. Craig had just three months to help get the building ready for the start of the school year—on top of preparing for Edison's major 75th Anniversary Celebration. He not only helped ensure the construction work was completed on time, but also worked closely with alumni to pull off an unforgettable week of celebration that made local news and showcased the best of Edison pride.

What I will remember most, though, is how personal his leadership felt. Craig made it a priority to greet students as they entered the building in the morning and to recognize them again as they left. Students noticed. They respected him deeply. I have never seen an audience of students respond with such genuine cheers and applause as they did when "Mr. Vana" was introduced at a pep fest.

David Moore

I first knew David Moore when I was at Edison in 1975. He taught history and served as the ski coach—a gifted teacher and coach who connected with students both in the classroom and on the slopes. In the early 1980s, responding to the needs of newly arrived Hmong refugee students, Dave founded Troop 100, Minnesota's first Hmong Scout troop. Troop 100 provided more than scouting skills—it offered friendship, leadership development, and a sense of belonging at a time when those things mattered greatly.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Dave later published a book titled *Dark Sky, Dark Land: Stories of the Hmong Boy Scouts of Troop 100*, built from interviews and stories collected by his students, including conversations with Hmong elders. Along with his friend Yee Chang, Dave visited the refugee camp in Thailand on the shores of the Mekong River, where many Hmong families lived after fleeing violence and persecution in Laos—where the Hmong had been American allies during the Vietnam War. Dave remained Troop 100's Scoutmaster until his death.

For an extraordinary 65 years (1959–2024), Dave also served as Camp Director of Camp Ajawah on Lake Linwood in Wyoming, Minnesota. I came to know Dave better over the years through my work on the scholarship committee, and his compassion—both for students and everyone he worked alongside—was truly unmatched.

Rita Andrescik

Rita Andrescik brought unmatched spirit and zest for life to Edison. She graduated from Edison in 1955 and later taught choir for over 20 years, from the late 1970s well into the 1990s. When I started at Edison, she took me in, showed me the ropes, and supported me in a way that meant a great deal—especially because she knew I was also an alum. Rita was never the type to simply “put in the hours and go home.” She poured herself into performances and pushed students to stretch beyond what they thought they could do. She created the “Northeast Express,” a vocal group that not only sang, but danced as well. They performed throughout the community and even traveled outside the area. Anyone who has ever helped run a program like that knows the time and energy it takes—on top of teaching every day. Students recognized that commitment, and they loved her for it.

Even after retirement, Rita continued to show up for Edison. We were fortunate to highlight her talents at variety shows and anniversary celebrations—especially Edison's 75th, 85th, and 90th. I was also told that during her years singing in nightclubs, she was one of the most in-demand acts around. She was a charmer who always left you with a smile on your face and feeling good about life!

Mike Doyle

Walking into a room of more than 120 staff members on the first day of a new job can be intimidating. But Mike Doyle was the person who immediately welcomed me, introduced me around, and made sure I felt at ease.

Mike taught French and coached hockey, and he had been at Edison since 1967, already a fixture by the time I arrived as a student in 1973. I was amazed that he remembered me when I returned in 1994—and even more touched by how genuinely happy he was to see someone come back to teach at Edison.

Mike lived in Red Wing and made the drive to Edison every morning for 28 years. His daughter even attended Edison for three of those years because she wanted to go to school where her father taught. Mike coached hockey for 20 years and later served as full-time athletic director for eight years. His impact on students, athletes, and the broader community is far bigger than what I can capture in the space of a newsletter.

Even in retirement, Mike stayed connected to Edison and Northeast. He was honored by the Eastside Old Timers with induction into their Hall of Fame, but sadly, he passed away just one week before the ceremony. Mike's smile, positivity, and energy will be truly missed.

Closing - I could write so much more about each of these remarkable individuals—and their impact on our school and community. We were incredibly fortunate to have them at Edison for long enough to build programs, traditions, and relationships that changed lives.

Their passing is a reminder to appreciate the people who give of themselves so that others can grow. May we honor Craig, Dave, Rita, and Mike not only with our memories, but by carrying forward the spirit they modeled: service, joy, leadership, and deep care for students and community.

Go Tommies!
Mike Iacarella
ECSF President



Edison High School Wrestling

This past week’s state wrestling tournament was a tremendous showcase of hard work, dedication, and resilience from our athletes. Competing at the highest level in the state is an accomplishment in itself, and both of our qualifiers represented Edison with pride. From hard-fought matches to championship moments, it was a week that highlighted the commitment and culture of our program.

Vicente Lopez Marsh capped off an incredible high school career with a strong showing at the state tournament, finishing 2–2 against some of the best competition in Minnesota. While the podium finish may not have come this time, his impact on our program is undeniable. Vicente closes his career as Edison’s all-time wins leader with 181 victories — a testament to his consistency, toughness, and dedication over four years. His leadership, work ethic, and competitive spirit have set a standard for those who will follow, and his name will remain a major part of our program’s history.

On the girls’ side, we witnessed another historic performance as Reymie Keenan battled her way to a state championship, earning her second state title. Winning one championship is an extraordinary accomplishment — winning two solidifies her place among the elite. Her poise, confidence, and relentless drive were on full display throughout the tournament. She continues to raise the bar not only for our program but for girls wrestling in our community, and we could not be more proud of the example she sets both on and off the mat.

Edison Coaches

Reunion Announcements

Class of 1960 - Luncheon

Monday, May 18, 2026, 11:30am, Sarna’s in Columbia Heights

Class of 1976 – Save the Date

September 19, 2026, at the Mermaid Entertainment Center, Mounds View, MN. More details to follow. Please save the date.

CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

SUPER STAR

Anonymous, Niles Schulz Scholarship
Harvey Feldman Charitable Trust, Feldman Scholarship
Joan Lindsey

GOLD

Kim Larson, Larson Family Scholarship
Linda Jones, in honor of Wes Hendrickson
Sarah Larson and Matthew Brown, Larson Family Scholarship
Carol and Paul Letourneau, in honor of Wes Hendrickson

BLUE

Darrel Untereker, William Chorske, Larry Amundson, Hendrickson Scholarship

TOMMIE

Jack Warne (the Warne Family), for the Memorial Plaque, Kelly Bliss, Jeanette Nibouar (Allen '68), in Memory of Clare Allen ('40 or'41), Michael Donatelle, in honor of Wes Hendrickson, Douglas Tanner, in memory of Ron Nelson ('48), Norma Tanner (Nelson) ('50), Sharon Tanner (Milewski) ('53), Marlene Olson ('56), Mandy Franz, Larson Family Scholarship, Fidelity Charitable, Larson Family Scholarship, Michael Leitner, in memory of Andrew Ostazeski

FRIEND OF EDISON

Jane Schulz, in memory of Niles Schulz and In memory of Mike Doyle, Donna Faber Purcell, Carol Graham, Sandra Decker, in memory of Dave Peyla, Barbara and Leroy Pribnow, Memorial Plaque, Diane Krawczynski, David Sadler, Bill Holm, in memory of Peggy (Holm) Jacobson, '53, Dan & Lori O'Donnell, in memory of Sany Bebo (Dooner) and Scott Sporlein, Beverly Kowalik, in honor of Tom Heidemann, Craig Larson, in honor of the music program, with a preference toward the Rock Band. . . , Kathryn Sivula, in memory of Andrew J. Ostazeski, Roger Peterson, Darryl Carter, in memory of Andy Ostazeski

OTHER

Mighty Cause, Bruce Gallus, Kay Lubansky, Memorial Plaque, Jeff Eskierka, Memorial Plaque, Helen and Tom Skovran, Renee Johnson, in memory of Carol Graham, Anthony Savage, in honor of Class of '77, Blackbaud giving fund, Candice Alexander, Eileen L. Simi, Kersten, James Becker, in memory of Ross Parker, Jill Davenport, in memory of departed Class of '74 members, Sharon Erskine, J. Lafroth, in memory of Andrew Ostazeski, Leo McCafferty, Memorial Plaque, William &Gigi Decker, Michael and Mary Anderson

Please fill in this form and mail it with your contribution to:

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 68032 Minneapolis, MN 55418

Check here to receive Email

confirmation of your donation: _____

Donate online at www.MplsEdisonAlumni.com

Name: _____ Maiden Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Class of: _____

Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program _____

Individual Giving Level

\$ _____ Other

_____ \$1,000 Gold

_____ \$500 Blue

_____ \$250 Tommie

_____ \$100 Friend of Edison

_____ \$50

_____ \$25

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Contributions made to the Edison Community & Sports Foundation help support this newsletter, EHS athletics/ activities/community and provide scholarships for Edison students who have shown excellence in academics, athletics and the arts. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation is to engage students, staff, alumni and community to direct resources to support programs, facilities and opportunities that advance Edison.



TOMMIES STICK TOGETHER

Many Edison families are unable to leave their homes due to safety concerns, all donations will be used to provide groceries, rent assistance, and utility help.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Cash donations** ✓
- Gift Cards (Costco, Aldi, Visa)** ✓
- Online donations** ✓

All donations can be mailed or brought to Edison high school. Online donations are managed by the EAC and can be made via PayPal with the QR code.

Support for families is being distributed by our Family Liaisons and Social Workers. If your family is in need of support due to safety concerns, please contact us at 612-668-1300

thank you!

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

Edison Community & Sports Foundation
P.O. Box 68032
Minneapolis, MN 55418

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The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of a Board of Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete - Pete Guzy and has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and NE Minneapolis. You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, Niles Schulz Scholarship Fundraiser and Annual Golf Tournament, or with a scholarship or Legacy Program contribution.

Board of Director meetings are held at Edison High School on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Changes will be posted on our website www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org
Michael Iacarella, President
John Burns, Vice President
Rick Eskola, Secretary
John Lawson, Treasurer

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION
WE'RE ON THE WEB WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we will include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered.

The ECSF would also like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non-profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information.

Send your information to:

Edison Community & Sports Foundation
P. O. Box 68032
Minneapolis, MN 55418