



ELCO Education Foundation

Newsletter

**PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES
PROMOTING INNOVATION
PARTNERING WITH THE
COMMUNITY**

April 2023, Issue 2

It's the Final Countdown...

Few classes excited ELCO Middle School students more than Space Science in the planetarium. Years of alumni can talk about Mr. Philips and nostalgically start naming the constellations that they remember. "In the Air Tonight" and "The Final Countdown" drum up fond memories of the planetarium.

With the commitment of the school district and the ELCO Education Foundation, the planetarium will undergo a renovation and reimagination to serve current and future Raiders.

SSIA Technologies will provide the catalyst to restart this program with the goal to have the planetarium ready to use in the 2023-24 school year. It consists of a science simulation fulldome video playback system, external device control, and a powerful user interface. The goal is to create a cross-curricular experience for all students K to 12. This includes showing museum experiences, anatomy and physiology, science, cultures and social studies lessons, as well as K5 based learning opportunities. In the future, plans are to offer community programs.

As part of the kickoff to this campaign, the ELCO Foundation invites you to A Night Under the Stars on Saturday, August 12. Enjoy stargazing along with food, drinks, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are available by scanning the QR code, visiting our website or emailing us. You can be a part of this exciting initiative! Donations for auction items and experiences are being accepted. Please email elcofoundation@gmail.com.

Tax-deductible donations from community members, parents, businesses, other foundations, and alumni create a compelling partnership of commitment to the success of the ELCO School District.





TEACHER GRANTS

The annual mini-grant program provides grant dollars to individual educators to pursue the implementation of innovative programs and experiences that benefit students. This year we are thrilled to be awarding grant funds to 10 projects that truly infuse the education of our district's students with fresh and creative ideas. We look forward to seeing these ideas in action in the coming school year!

A Templeton - HS

Oversize yard games for library (Jenga, Checkers, etc)

E McCallum - MS

MagnaTiles (Math)

G Miller - IS

Binoculars (Science)

J Bender - HS

TRX training equipment (PhysEd)

Z Stuart - HS

TRX training equipment (PhysEd)

J Thomas - HS

Mousetrap kit, hydraulic arm (Science/Science Olympiad)

J Koontz - HS

Sous vide pressure cooker and containers (Science - Chemistry)

K Strayer - IS

Sphero robot kit (Math)

K Thorley - HS

Heat press (Special Needs)

N Wright - IS

MicroBit Go (STEM)



Corporate & Individual Sponsors

Listrak – Diamond Sponsor
AH Moyer – Diamond Sponsor
Keller Brothers – Diamond Sponsor
Rohrers Inc – Diamond Sponsor
GAF – Diamond Sponsor
H & S Kramer – Gold Sponsor
AEM Architects, Inc. – Gold Sponsor
Woodland Contractors – Silver Sponsor
Perrotti Partners – Silver Sponsor
MGD Equipment – Silver Sponsor
Zinn Insurance & Zinn Holding – Bronze Sponsor
Wengers of Myerstown – Bronze Sponsor
Grose Funeral Home – Bronze Sponsor
Appel, Zee and Yost – Bronze Sponsor
Lebanon Land Transfer – Bronze Sponsor
Henry Molded Products – Bronze Sponsor
Anonymous Donor – Benefactor
T. Hayes – Benefactor
R & M Putt – Friend



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

\$5000 (Diamond Investor)
 \$2500 (Gold Investor)
 \$1000 (Silver Investor)
 \$500 (Bronze Investor)
 \$250 (Benefactor)
 \$100 (Friend)

ELCO ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Caroline Callahan, known to most as Carrie, has devoted her life to serve others. She was called to serve those in our world at the age of 12 years after attending a missionary conference. Carrie stated “If I would dedicate my life to service I could share love, peace and joy with those around me in a mighty way. Ultimately, I could share my faith and give others a chance to make the same decision to see change in our world.”

Carrie attended the United Methodist Church sponsored trip to Eastern Europe in 1991 during her senior year in high school. This three week journey provided the chance to see our world at a very fragile time. The wall had just come down in Germany and there was a longing for purpose. Her time there showed how easy it was to reach the corners of the world. Her quest was supported by her grandmother, Mary Schneider, a woman of great faith and love. She had a beautiful way of making others feel welcome whenever they were in her presence. All through Carrie’s years in college her grandmother wrote words of encouragement to bolster courage and strength to carry on the work of God.

One event in her life that has had a strong positive effect was helping to build a school in Cambodia. Carrie was serving as a missionary in Korea when a friend asked her to come to Cambodia to teach the children bible stories through songs. Her training as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the former ECC Retirement Village would help in a visit to the AIDS/HIV. clinic in the area. The clinic run by nuns from Mother Teresa’s order brought a peace to Carrie. When she asked what she could do to help this group of dying men and women, the nun told her to just hold their hand and sing a song. God will do the rest. She was right, but Carrie believed the greatest change was happening inside her own heart. Carrie stated “You don’t need language to love, you don’t need money to love, you just need a willingness to love.” She spent eight summers in Cambodia.

Through the love and support of her parents, Michael and Susan Callahan, Carrie enters her 26th year of overseas service.

Carrie’s time at ELCO were some of the best days of her life. She still has friendships that have spanned the years since graduation. She loved singing in the musicals and select choir. She is forever grateful to Mrs. Brenda Bomberger for teaching her shorthand, a wonderful skill that taught how a listening ear and sweet spirit can go a long way in a young person’s life. She especially thinks of her when a student asks to eat lunch together because they just need a quiet place to think. She was a light to her.



“People will forget what you said, peace will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou



Carrie facts:

- Home town: Myerstown;
- Elementary School: attended both Jackson and Myerstown Elementary
- Graduated from ELCO: 1991
- Education: BA of Theology and Education from Appalachian Bible College in Beckley, WV; Kodaly Masters Certificate in Kowloon, Hong Kong Baptist University; Masters Degree in Counseling and Education from Liberty University, Lynchburg WV
- Currently lives in: Papa, Hungary
- Occupation: Music/Art Teacher at QSI International School of Papa, Hungary
- Achievements & Recognitions: Teacher of the Year at Hong Kong International Christian School 2004; 2015 Recipient of Honorary Delta Epsilon Chi Award (given to members of the ABC Alumni Association who demonstrated “outstanding intellectual achievement, Christian character, and leadership ability.”); Speaker at music conferences in Hong Kong, Korea and Cambodia
- Raised Funds for charity groups in Cambodia, China and most recently the Ukraine and Turkey

Carrie’s advices to future ELCO graduates is to act wisely with the choices they make but to also dare to be different. Dare to take a chance and try something new. If this girl from Myerstown can live 25 years overseas in 6 different countries, she is sure there are boundless things each one can accomplish. Make a difference in our world one step at a time.

DONATE TODAY!!

The ELCO Education Foundation enhances excellence in education by providing a funding avenue for new programs, technology, equipment, teacher grants, and student scholarships. An investment in our children is truly an investment in our future.

Donate now to the ELCO Education Foundation!

Contributions to the ELCO Education Foundation can be made online by scanning the QR Code below or by visiting our website. Checks can be mailed to:

*ELCO Education Foundation
180 ELCO Drive
Myerstown, PA 17067*



ELCO Hall of Fame

The ELCO Education Foundation Hall of Fame seeks to recognize individuals who have achieved noteworthy and outstanding accomplishments in their chosen fields. Nominations now being accepted. Visit our website for details. Nominations due May 31, 2023.



Contact Us

Email: ELCOFoundation@gmail.com
Facebook: [@ELCOEducationFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ELCOEducationFoundation)
Website: ELCOEdFoundation.org

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ELCO 2023 SPRING EVENTS

*Save the date for these special events
happening in the district this year!*

April 30: High School Spring Concert

May 9: Middle School Spring Concert

May 11: Intermediate School Spring Concert

May 19: Intermediate School Field Day

May 23: Jackson Field Day

June 7: Graduation

Visit www.elcosd.org for a full list of events for each building.

