

Bear Tracks



The Suda East Butler High School Alumni Newsletter

May 2022

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Small Gym is Now - Alumni Hall

More than 24,000 Alumni to be honored

The Jefferson County Board of Education has approved a motion to name Butler's small gymnasium Alumni Hall. Over the years, the gym has been referred to as the Gym, the Old Gym, the Girl's Gym and the Small Gym. Now it will have an official name. "This is long overdue," explains William Allen, principal. He continued, "The Alumni have always supported the school and continue to do so. There are not many schools in Jefferson County that can make this claim."

The Alumni Association was started 10 years ago. Since that time, the association has grown to over 1,600 members and has donated more than \$250,000 to the school. Fred Wright '58, the association's first president, commented, "I remember our first donation to the school. It was \$2,000 to purchase four iPads for the library." He laughed. "We were so proud of ourselves. We had no idea we would get to this point." The point Fred refers to is the most recent donation of \$90,000+ to upgrade the small gym (oops, Alumni Hall).

SUDA E.
BUTLER
ALUMNI
DONATIONS
\$ 250,000 TO DATE

Alumni Hall	\$ 117,000
*Other	\$ 54,000
Robotics Lab	\$ 30,000
Scholarships	\$ 12,000
Keyboards	\$ 11,000
Conference Room	\$ 10,000
Video Board	\$ 5,000
War Memorial	\$ 5,000
TVs	\$ 3,000
Library	\$ 3,000

* Donations <\$1,000 to various organizations i.e., Yearbook, fence signs, programs

SEBAA is happy to make these donations. Larry Birkenfeld, '67 explains, "We want our donations to help as many students as possible and in most cases, we have accomplished that goal. We never wanted to take the place of booster clubs or the PTA. We appreciate the school recognizing all alumni by naming the gym Alumni Hall. The name is fitting."

The name Alumni Hall will be used for the first time during the performance of the spring musical, *All Shook Up*., on Saturday, May 14. This is an event sponsored by SEBAA and we encourage alumni to attend.

2022 Events for Alumni

Friday-Sunday	May 13-15	Spring Musical in Alumni Hall
Friday	June 17	Bears' Night Out at Mike Linnig's
Thursday	Sept. 8	Class of 1962 60th Reunion
Friday	Sept. 9	Golden Bear Dinner in Alumni Hall
Saturday	Sept. 10	Class of 1972 50th Reunion

Check our webpage for the latest information. We will make updates as we receive them.

[Click to visit our webpage](#)

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90,000+ Donation

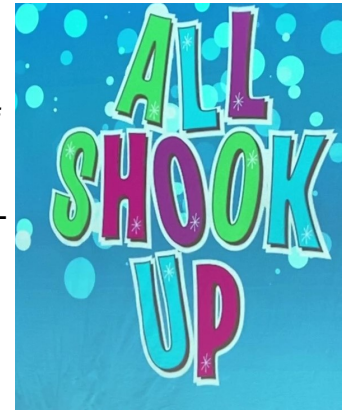
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New Members
Obituaries

Spring Musical Returns to Butler

Special Alumni Performance – Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m.

The Performing Arts Department at Butler High School is excited to announce the return of the spring musical. After many years of its absence, the students at Butler have been working hard to bring back this wonderful tradition. This project would not be possible without the generous support of the Suda E. Butler High School Alumni Association (SEBAA) and its commitment to renovating the stage area, adding new bleachers, a sound system and much more in the small gym. Because of their support and the dedication of the students of Butler, we are pleased to present “All Shook Up” on May 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. and May 15 at 2 p.m. On the evening of May 14, the space will be dedicated and named “Alumni Hall” during a special presentation prior to the performance of the show.



Elvis Presley’s hits roar to life in the Broadway musical comedy *All Shook Up*, as the stick-in-the mud Mayor Matilda has outlawed fun in her small Midwestern town. This madcap musical comedy based on Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* overflows with rock ‘n roll, gospel, romance and mistaken identities. *All Shook Up* tells the story of a small-town girl with big dreams and the motorcycle-riding roustabout she falls for. Among the many hits that will have you jumping out of your blue suede shoes are, “Love Me Tender,” “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Hound Dog,” and “It’s Now or Never.” *All Shook Up* is guaranteed to knock your socks off!

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for students, and children under school age get in free.

Marc Monroe
Butler Performing Arts Chair

Click for
[Ticket Information](#)

SEBAA is proud to sponsor the return of Butler’s Spring Musical, “**All Shook Up**” on May 13 and 14 at 7 PM and May 15 at 2 PM. The May 14th performance will be in honor of **all Butler Alumni**. On this night the small gym will be dedicated and named “Alumni Hall” during a special presentation prior to the performance of the show.



Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for Seniors, \$5 for students and children under school age are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or on line. Click this link to [order on line](#). Select *All Shook Up* and the performance you wish to attend. Or you can scan the QR Code.

Lifetime Memberships - Now Easier Than Ever

We need you and we’ve made it easier than ever. We ask that you donate, at least, \$25. You can put it on your credit card and no one will see your information. You will never be required to donate again. Why should you join? Here are some facts. SEBAA is the only Alumni Association of Suda E. Butler High School. There are some ‘For Profit’ groups on the internet using the name Butler Alumni, but they are not affiliated with our Alma Mater.

Join SEBAA by clicking this link [Become a Lifetime Member](#).

You can mail in your donation or, after completing the form, you will be directed to the Donate button that allows you to donate by credit card. Other donations can be made by clicking the Donate button, located on the [SEBAA webpage](#).

SEBAA Lifetime Memberships Available for \$25

SEBAA Donates \$90,000+ to Help Revive Performing Arts

Stage and Gym Upgrades Included in Largest Donation to Date

Recently the school approached SEBAA with a request to upgrade the small gym, primarily the stage, to revive the performing arts program. Butler has a long history of excellent school plays and musicals, but those stopped a few years ago. In fact, the stage often was used as a storage area. A real eyesore.

The performing arts program is being resurrected and band director Marc Monroe is leading the way. Marc produced a detailed plan and convinced the SEBAA board of directors that the school was serious and that he would see the project through. This donation would be focused on getting the stage, lights and sound systems to the point that performances would be possible again. "SEBAA's donation has provided us with a state-of-the-art performance space. The stage had become a barren space that was primarily used for storage. Thanks to the generous donation the stage will now be used for choir concerts, jazz band concerts, percussion ensemble concerts, schoolwide talent shows, plays, and the revived spring musical. Knight Audio, of Louisville, has been working since the start of the semester to install a brand-new lighting grid that includes all digital lighting and state-of-the-art intelligent lights that can be programmed to move.



The Butler Jazz Band performs on stage in Alumni Hall



In addition to the lighting system, the stage features 12 wireless microphones, four overhead microphones, a brand new sound system, new curtains, a mobile tech booth, a camera that gives us the ability to livestream any activity in the space, a wireless communication system for the tech crew, a curtain system to create an area for the pit orchestra during musicals and numerous other amenities that give our students a performance space that rivals any in JCPS," explained Marc Monroe, Performing Arts Department.

But that is not all. The spring musical, "All Shook Up," had some startup costs, so, included in the \$90,000 donation, is \$2,000 to cover licensing and royalty fees for the play. Marc Monroe explains, "This allows us to make attending the performance affordable for all students."

[Click to View SEBAA Lifetime Members](#)



Suda E. Butler Alumni Association
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**Suda E. Butler High School
Alumni Association**

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Board of Directors

Charles Myers '58
Fred Wright '58
Earl Dever '59
John King '64
Joan Sternberg Butler '64
Donna Crook Hall '67
Larry Birkenfeld '67
Harrie Lynne Lucas Buecker '70
Brenda Martin '70
Mike Turley '70
Diane Potts '71
Diana Bott Hellman '72
Eddie Cannon '72
Marc Jennings '74
Brittany Campbell Braun '00
Johnathan Joseph '11

Principal

William M. Allen

Alumni News / Alumni Class Notes

New SEBAA Members

1960 Roy Burress
1962 Judy Gay Staples
1969 Donna L. Hudson Conkin
1970 Christina Davis Case
1970 Sue M. McKinley Casey
1972 Brenda Benton Schmidt
1972 Bruce Jennings
1972 Ron Minks
1973 Elaine Sheppard Jacob
1977 Sharon J. Shine Melton
Faculty Michael Bolden **

** Memorial Member

Click to view the complete list of
[SEBAA Lifetime Members](#)

Alumni Obituaries

1959 Howard E. Hunter
1960 Donna Huckelberry Neal
1969 Bonita Melton Conner
1970 Rickie Fey
1972 James Fox
1972 Renee Williams Walsh
1974 Allen D. Pendleton
1975 Michael Patton
Faculty Michael Bolden

*We extend our sympathy to the family
and friends of these Butler Bears. If we
have missed the passing of one of our
friends, please let us know and we will
publish it in our next newsletter*

Click to view the
[SEBAA Memorial List](#)

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