



Southview Graduate Turns Interests Into Successful Business

Eric Fefferman's interest in classic collectibles has led to a successful business — one he built from the ground up.

“What I sell is fun,” said Eric. “I like waking up in the morning knowing that I’ll be working with some of my favorite things: classic comic books, super heroes, Disney collectibles, items from history and more.”

Eric, a 2014 graduate of SSD’s Southview School, has used his educational success and support from family, educators, and community to not only begin his own business, but also to excel in running all aspects of his business, Evolve Collectibles.

Eric’s business keeps him busy on a daily basis. He acquires and sells classic figurines, illustrated comics and literature from the 1940s and 1950s, action figures, vintage board games, entertainment memorabilia and more.

Some of his tasks include ensuring his displays look nice, organizing merchandise, maintaining his website and Facebook page, preparing for vendor fairs and keeping an eye on his business budget. “It also takes time to keep up with maintaining good records,” he said.

Eric began his education at Southview at the age of 12. His mother, Cindy Fefferman Appel, said the team at Southview welcomed Eric and he was allowed to blossom at his own pace.

“They respected Eric, and me as his best advocate,” said Appel. “He went from being a terrified young man to a happy and valued model student.”

By working together as a team, parents and educators help students to be successful. Eric learned many skills at Southview, including gaining the habit of writing down his thoughts before meetings.

“I still use that skill before important calls and when meeting with my bank,” said Eric.

Eric said that Southview was a positive place and the staff worked well with him and his family. “It’s a good thing when a student knows that home and school are on the same page and are a team.”

He added that his education and the teamwork helped him gain an unshakeable confidence. “When you have a positive attitude at home and school, it makes all the difference,” Eric said. “I now try things and give myself the chance to succeed.”

Paul Bauer, SSD’s assistant superintendent for learning and assessment, said that Eric’s success is a positive example of how a student can turn a personal interest into a thriving business.

“It shows that a student with a disability can develop the skills and knowledge to be an independent, tax-paying business person — a truly successful graduate and contributor to society,” said Bauer.

Bauer said that Eric worked hard to accomplish his goals — personal, and educational. *Continued inside »*



“Life is on-the-job training and you have to work it.”

— Eric Fefferman,
Southview School graduate

*Southview Graduate, continued
from front cover*

“Eric’s mother was a tireless advocate for him,” said Bauer. “She never gave up on working with Eric’s school to meet his needs and prepare him for independent life after graduation. His teachers and principals communicated continuously with his mother and were open to all of her ideas, and found a way to make many of them work.”

Eric, his mom, and the staff at Southview all agreed that getting as much education in math as possible would help him build a business and accomplish his goals.

“I learned enough math at Southview that I can easily maintain my business account, fill out order sheets, and know how much I must charge for an item to make a profit,” Eric said. “I work with taxes and shipping charges too.”

Eric has this advice for his peers: “Life is on-the-job training and you have to work it.” ■



Eric not only sells his merchandise at vendor fairs and online on Amazon and eBay, but also has two display cases in the St. Louis South County Antique Mall at 13208 Tesson Ferry Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63128.

To see Eric’s collectibles, visit <http://evolvecollectibles.com>

Event Offers Families One-Stop Access to Disability Resources



SSD’s Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program will sponsor the North County Disability Resource Fair on April 22.

The event is scheduled for 4–7 p.m. at SSD’s Ackerman School, 1550 Derhake Road in Florissant. It will feature information about programs and resources from SSD and other community agencies.

Attendees will have the chance to learn more about topics such as respite care, recreation opportunities, health care and other community resources.

Participants will include SSD’s Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program, the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis Regional Office and a wide array of nonprofit providers.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required to attend. For more information, call 314.989.8194 (711 Deaf/HOH). ■

SEF Women Leaders Boutique, Fashion Show and Luncheon

The Special Education Foundation (SEF) Women Leaders will host their annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon on April 9 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet.

Proceeds from the event support scholarships for students with disabilities and provide funding for programs at SSD’s special education schools. In the 2014–2015 school year, event proceeds will provide more than \$7,000 for initiatives including an after-school program and a clothing exchange.

The boutique will open at 10 a.m., with the luncheon to follow at noon. The fashion show will begin at 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10.

Visit http://bit.ly/sef_fashion for event details and to register.

To read more about how the SEF Women Leaders’ work benefits students, visit http://bit.ly/sef_style_substance ■


Special Education Foundation
Success Beyond the Classroom

Program Teaches Parents to Be Leaders

Gaining knowledge, developing leadership skills and building connections are just a few of the benefits for parents who participate in the Fred Saigh Parent Leadership Institute (PLI).

“At the PLI, I learned that I am my son’s advocate and that one day he will become a self-advocate,” said Danielle Cooney, who participated in this year’s PLI sessions. Her son, Jourden, is in the sixth grade at Litzsinger School.

“I learned that many parents do not think about life after high school, and that there are a lot of options available in adulthood for my son,” said Cooney. “We are researching what will be a good fit for him.”

Each year since 2006, the PLI has provided training to parents of children with disabilities on topics designed to help them with their child’s educational journey. Training ranges from how to be a part of productive meetings to how to positively interact and collaborate with other parents and school officials.

During the program, parents are also exposed to a broad array of new resources and gain access to a strong network of other parents, school officials and community leaders.

Participants attend three full days of training, held on Saturdays once a month for three months. The program is presented by the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program with funding from the Special Education Foundation.

Cooney said she learned from speaker Kathie Snow that a disability is natural

and because she, as a mom, knows her child best, she can help him succeed by encouraging him and advocating based on his needs.

“Speaker Derrick Defresne’s advice taught us that a good life is possible with persistence and perseverance,” said Cooney. “We received specific training about teaching my son that the world does not revolve around him, but he can be a part of the community and give back to people less fortunate than him.”

Cooney said she would recommend the PLI to other parents because it can help them think about how their children’s lives will be as adults.

“I am determined now more than ever to ensure my son lives a good life and has real friends who truly care about him,” she said. “We will continue to focus on his present goals and help him shape his goals for the future as a productive man in the community.”

In addition to learning about advocating for her son, Cooney said she is also now motivated to help others.

“I am interested in advocating for all persons with special needs, and I have applied to participate in Partners in Policymaking to learn more tools to help others,” said Cooney.

Fred Saigh Parent Leadership Institute

APPLY BY APRIL 17

Download the application at http://bit.ly/PLI_application or contact LaTrisa Morgan at 314.989.8194 or lamorgan@ssdmo.org.



Partners in Policymaking is sponsored by the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis. It is a leadership-training

program for adults with disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities.

The PLI is now accepting applications for its 2015 program to be held in three sessions on Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 7. There is no cost to participate and the program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at SSD’s Central Office at 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131.

Applications are due by April 17. At least one parent from each school district in St. Louis County and each SSD school will be chosen to participate. All parents are encouraged to apply. Parents of children receiving First Steps and early childhood special education services and those with children in kindergarten through third grade are especially encouraged to apply. ■

Board of Education

- **Dr. Dan Cuneo**, Board President
dcuneo@ssdmo.org
- **Ms. Jan Goodman**,
Board Vice President
jagoodman@ssdmo.org
- **Mr. John F. Koeper**, Board Secretary
jkoeper@ssdmo.org
- **Ms. Peg Lestina**, Director
plestina@ssdmo.org
- **Ms. Marilyn Stewart**, Director
mstewart@ssdmo.org
- **Dr. Jim Westbury**, Director
jwestbury@ssdmo.org
- **Dr. Zella Williams**, Director
zwilliams@ssdmo.org
- **Mr. Don Bohannon**, Superintendent
dbohannon@ssdmo.org



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK

www.ssdmo.org

MISSION: In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

VISION: Partners for every student's success

VALUES: student success • collaboration
• integrity • stewardship • continuous
improvement • equity

Special School District Notice of Non-Discrimination and Accommodation:

Special School District does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, veteran status, age, or activity protected by federal or state law in its programs, activities and employment. Direct inquiries and complaints under this policy to Special School District's Compliance Coordinator, 12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131; telephone 314.989.8100 or to the Office of Civil Rights, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Mo. 64114-3302; telephone 816.268.0550. Information about the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities accessible to impaired persons can be obtained from Special School District's Compliance Coordinator at the phone number and address listed above.

Special Edition is a publication of the Communications Department of Special School District of St. Louis County.
314.989.8288 / communications@ssdmo.org



Contains 50% pre-consumer
and 10% post-consumer content.

NEWS FROM SSD



**Special School District
of St. Louis County**
12110 Clayton Road
Town & Country, MO 63131

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ST. LOUIS, MO
PERMIT NO. 1282

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

proposition S

Investing in student success

Check out photos of construction progress at SSD's Neuwoehner High School, Ackerman School and Northview High School at http://bit.ly/prop_s

At Neuwoehner, 800 square feet of new classroom space has been added to replace smaller classrooms. The smaller rooms will be converted to staff work areas.

At Ackerman, a new gym is being constructed. And at Northview, construction continues on the new school, which is located next door to the current school.

The renovations and building projects were made possible by voters' investment in SSD and its students through the passage of Proposition S in 2012. ■

