

IONIA SENTINEL-STANDARD

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Saranac schools show appreciation during dinner

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The dinner was put on by Saranac Community Schools to thank the community for all that they do. The dinner has been going on for at least 15 years. Independent Bank and Gordon Food Service helped to provide the meals.

"We keep getting better every year and that's because of the dedication of our staff, the dedication of our employees and we have a strong administrative team and a board that provides a lot of direction and we also have you, the community, that has been very supportive," Superintendent Maury Geiger said.

The night started off with a demonstration from the Robotics team. The team is in its third year and has grown since the start of the club.

"It is 100 percent a volunteer-sponsored donation-based club. It is not curriculum-based, there is no credit hours, they don't do this for a grade they do it because they enjoy science, technology, engineering and math and giving back to the community," advisor Robert Johnson said.

The robotics team was followed by a performance from the Saranac Area Musicians and Singers band. The SAMS choir members also sang some of their songs. They are hosting the spring concert, Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Saranac Jr./Sr. High School gym. The program runs about an hour and a half long with an intermission which includes Better Made Chips, Faygo and Vernors because the theme of the concert is Motown.

"We are indeed in the early stages of a campaign to ensure that all of our community children have access to quality educations beyond high school," Saranac Promise Scholarship co-chair Jim McCarty said.

The promise hopes to raise \$2 million over the next three years to provide scholarships to students in the community. This year the promise will present the first scholarships to a number of graduating seniors during commencement in June. Along with sponsoring the appreciation dinner, Independent Bank presented the promise with \$15,000 to go towards scholarships.

"The Saranac Promise will create a stronger community that will attract families and business to our community, increase enrollment and improve graduation rates," McCarty said.



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Independent Bank presenting the Saranac Promise Scholarship with a check for \$15,000.

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