

Pattonville students' hard work earns new shoes

Thirty-two middle school students in the Pattonville School District recently earned a new pair of shoes, thanks to their own personal efforts and a grant from the Saucony Shoe Company.

The students participated in the Read, Right and Run Marathon programs at Holman Middle School and Pattonville Heights Middle School. Read, Right and Run is a youth initiative from the GO! St. Louis Marathon. The program promotes reading proficiency, physical fitness and community-minded service among children. Students enrolled in the program read 26 books, perform 26 good deeds and run 26.2 miles over a six-month period. Their hard work culminates each year when they run their final miles at the April Family Day in Forest Park (held for April 6 this year).

Prior to the marathon, 15 students from Holman and 17 from Pattonville Heights took a field trip to the Big River Running Shoe Store to pick out new running shoes to help them with their training and to wear on race day. Shoe store co-owners Ben Rosario and Matt Helbig provided pizza for the students and fit the students properly for their shoes. Students had to meet certain goals for reading books, completing their good deeds, running, and attending Read, Right and Run meetings and events in order to earn the free pair of shoes.

The trip and shoes were paid for with funds from a \$7,500 grant received by Pattonville teacher Stephanie McCreary from the Saucony Shoe Company.