

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kristin Burns

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key – Alternatives in Education* Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-012

Kristin Burns, a teacher at the Keith Country Day School who discusses its history and traditions, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 1, 2018    Location: Keith Country Day School, Rockford Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:26 / 1.43 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 15, 2018.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Interview being  
processed

## Abstract

### Kristin Burns, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-012

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview** Kristin Burns was born in July 1983 in Rockford, Illinois. She attended Winnebago High School and graduated in 2001. While at Winnebago, Kristin competed in cross country, band, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She then graduated from Marquette University in 2005, majoring in history with minors in anthropology and sociology. After Marquette, Kristin earned her teaching certificate at Purdue University. Her first job was a teaching position at the Regional Office of Education Alternative School in Loves Park, Illinois. In 2008 Kristin joined the faculty at Keith Country Day School, a private college prep school in Rockford where she currently is employed. She teaches history, government, and economics. She has also coached a very successful middle school scholastic bowl team.

In this interview, Kristin reviews the history of Keith Country Day dating back to its creation by Belle Emerson Keith in 1916. The school enrolls around 245 students, from grades pre-K through 12th grade. The students come from northern Illinois as well as Wisconsin. Kristin covers the school's mission, traditions, curriculum, service learning, its philosophy of personalized learning, student tuition, scholarship opportunities and much more. The advantages and challenges of running an independent progressive school located in Rockford were reviewed, especially in light of the economic conditions in the region. Other topics explored include the importance of its alumni, the role of the Board of Trustees, the success in extracurricular activities (scholastic bowl, volleyball, and soccer) and the school's organization (lower, middle, and upper levels). One strength of Keith Country Day is its extensive foreign language program, which includes instruction in Spanish, French, Latin and ancient Greek.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Keith Country Day School, Rockford, Illinois; Keith Country Day School curriculum; foreign language instruction at Keith Country Day; Keith Country Day buildings and campus; Keith Country Day organization; student recruitment for private schools; Keith Country Day School extracurricular activities

**Notes to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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