

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Shawn Hoffmann

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Alternatives in Illinois Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-015

Shawn Hoffmann, principal of Trinity Lutheran School in Bloomington, 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 19, 2018 Location: Trinity Lutheran School, Bloomington, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:34 / 1.57 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 29, 2018.

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

© 2018 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview being
processed

Abstract

Shawn Hoffmann, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-015

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Shawn Hoffmann was born in Woodstock, Illinois in January 1973 and grew up in Island Lake, Illinois. Shawn attended St. Matthew School in Lake Zurich from kindergarten through eighth grade. His high school years were at Wauconda High School, where he graduated in 1991. He participated in band, baseball, math teams, basketball, outdoor education, and school plays. Following high school, he attended Concordia University Chicago, graduating in 1995. While there Shawn majored in elementary education and played in the pep band, helped with freshmen orientation, and participate in student government. In 1994 he received a call to teach science at Trinity Lutheran in Bloomington. He then became principal of Trinity Lutheran in 2004, where he still worked at the time of the interview. Shawn earned his MA in Educational Administration from Illinois State University in 2011.

This interview reviews the history of Trinity Lutheran School dating back to its creation in 1858. Hoffmann discusses the various school locations, historic school leaders, and the construction of the new facilities in 2003. Trinity Lutheran currently enrolls around 350 students from pre-K through 8th grade, attracting students from the Bloomington-Normal area, with some farther afield. Hoffmann addresses the school's curriculum, which includes general academics, religious classes, specialized learning, and extracurriculars, its philosophy and mission statement, student tuition and scholarship availability, and school day organization. He talks about the advantages and challenges of being a religious school located in a geographic location where education is highly valued. Other topics explored include the duties of the Board of Trustees, the principal and the use of technology in the classroom.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Trinity Lutheran School, Bloomington, IL; Trinity Lutheran School facilities; advantages and challenges of religious schools from pre-K thru 8th grade; placement in high schools after time at Trinity Lutheran

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955