

# McGuffey Society praises Beeghlys

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## YOUNGSTOWN

Philanthropists Bruce and Nancy Beeghly received the Pioneer Award from the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society during a Founder's Day celebration Friday.

The celebration was at William Holmes McGuffey Elementary School, the school named in honor of the creator of the McGuffey Reader, the first standardized reading text that was used by most schools in the United States during the mid-to-late 19th century.

"It's an honor for Nancy and I to be here today to accept this award," Bruce Beeghly told the students at the event.

Education plays an important role in the world today, he said. "Stay in school, do your best, and remember, what you've learned is something that no one can take away from you," Beeghly said. "It will be a source of strength for you, your entire life."

Richard Scarsella, society president, said the Beeghlys were selected because

of their contributions to education, literacy and historic preservation. Bruce Beeghly served on the Liberty

Board of Education, Youngstown State

University Board of Trustees and the Ohio Board of Regents for a combined

25 years. He is past president of Altronic Inc. in Girard and was active

with the United Way of the Mahoning Valley, serving as board president and campaign chairman.

Nancy Beeghly, a *Vindicator* columnist for 12 years, worked as an English teacher at Boardman High School. She said she's always loved reading and remembers her grandmother reciting poems to her from the *McGuffey Reader*.



Richard Scarsella, right, awards Nancy and Bruce Beeghly the 2012 Pioneer Award from the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society. The Beeghlys were honored for their commitment to education, literacy and historic preservation.



Student audience members participate during the William Holmes McGuffey Award ceremony at McGuffey Elementary School. Bruce and Nancy Beeghly won the 2012 Pioneer Award on Friday for their contributions to literacy, education and historic preservation. MADELYN P. HASTINGS THE VINDICATOR

Two YSU buildings, Beeghly Hall, which houses the Beeghly College of Education, and the Beeghly Center are among nine college buildings around the country that bear the family name. Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and The American University in Washington, D.C. also boast buildings with the Beeghly name.

The Founder's Day event is presented annually by the William Holmes McGuffey Historical Society, which named and sponsors the school in honor of "America's schoolmaster." Previous award winners include retired Ohio Sen. Harry Meshel, the Tony Lariccia Family, Gibby James, Helen Stambaugh, Janie Jenkins and Regina Reese.