

GHS School Improvement Council Hosts Lexington One School Board Candidate Forum for Second Year

The Gilbert High School Improvement Council hosted five candidates for Lexington School District One School board seats on the evening of Monday, October 22nd. For the second year in a row, students from our Advanced Placement Government and Advanced Placement U.S. History classes moderated the event which gave them an excellent real-world learning experience. Jordan Abney, Brett Spradley, and Ridge Vining were the Advanced Placement students who moderated the candidate forum with professionalism and represented their school very well! As in last year's event, we had close to 100 members of the community attend the forum to hear from each of the candidates about how they viewed the role of school board member and how they planned to use their seat to impact the students, faculty, staff, and families of Lexington School District One.

Gilbert High School Welcomes Community for Events to Celebrate Learning and Partnership with EL Education

Gilbert High School faculty and staff have opened the doors of the school this year on a few nights to celebrate the achievement of students and the school's partnership with EL Education. First, the first ever Next LeVeL night was held to share with families from GHS as well as Gilbert middle, elementary, and primary schools what our partnership with EL Education means for the learning experiences available for students at Gilbert High School as we pursue developing each student as effective learners, ethical people, and contributors to a better world. During this event, students from Mr. Mark Cagle's Crew served as guides and facilitators during an interactive night filled with learning and modeling the student-centered teaching and learning happening throughout Gilbert High School.

On the evening of February 28th, we welcomed the rising 9th grade students and their families to participate in our Freshman Curriculum Night. For the second year in a row, this night has been an interactive night where rising 9th graders and their families can walk the halls of Gilbert High School, meet all of the faculty and staff, and hear from each department about the exciting learning experiences that they will have while being a student at GHS. Students and their families get to participate in hands-on learning presentations throughout the building. This is definitely one of my favorite nights of the year because it gives our teachers an opportunity to share their enthusiasm and passion for the content areas that they teach with their prospective students! It is definitely a night where the joy of learning is on full display!

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting our community once again on May 20th for our first ever Celebration of Learning. This evening will provide a platform for our students to showcase their learning by presenting projects, products, original artwork, music performances, and athletic accomplishments to their peers and families. This recognition will recognize all three attributes of student achievement: character, high quality work, and mastery of knowledge and skills. Students will showcase their growth in character by sharing the culmination of their Crew community service projects, modeling Crew activities for our visitors, and sharing their

contributions to a better world through projects and products in their classes. Students will have an opportunity to display their high quality work in all forms through visual art, performing arts, projects, and products created in their classes. Finally, students will be able to share their academic accomplishments by sharing the knowledge and skills that they have attained this year through their work in many of their classes.

GHS Junior and Senior Crews Come Together to Make an Impact on Their Community.

Within the theory of EL Education and of Crew, we are charged to look at the world around us and be change makers. Our Core Practices book states, "Service Learning is not an afterthought or an add-on. It is an extension of the ethics of kindness and service that permeates the school. Students and teachers regularly discuss ways they can contribute to a better world. As such, service learning is a prime vehicle to teach and take action centered on social justice" (p. 24, EL Education).

Because of this belief, our Junior and Senior students have had the opportunity to design a community service project that aims at being the change we wish to see in the world. Each Crew was tasked with researching and studying the community around them so that they could identify an existing need, a place where they thought they could make a significant and lasting impact. Crews then designed a service project, proposed their idea to a panel of school faculty, received feedback, made revisions, and got to work. We have students making memory books for people living in nursing homes, we have students making blankets for children staying in the hospital, we have students mentoring elementary and middle school students, we have students leading information and donation campaigns about food instability and hunger, we have students giving support to those who care for needy animals. And so much more.

To document the ways in which GHS students are contributing to a better world, we will be compiling and publishing a book. This book will record the efforts and reflections of each Crew. Paired with the belief that the work itself is important, we know that the reflection and learning that comes as a result of the work is equally as important. This book will showcase how our students have learned and grown through this process. At our end of year Celebration of Learning, we hope to unveil the book and present it to all of our gracious community partners.