

Leadership At GJHS

Leadership around Grand Junction High School

story by connor kinser

Leadership is something students at Grand Junction High School can witness everyday.

Whether it's your teachers showing it in the classroom or Principal Jory Sorensen on the announcements every day: Great leaders can be found anywhere.

"There are loads of incredible leaders that I've met through my life both in school and in Student Council. I've met people in school... But if I had to say the greatest leader ever I would have to say our parents are good parents that have led us into the people we are," said GJHS junior Brayan Caro Gaspar, who is a member of Student Council.

There are many definitions of leadership but the common ground in leadership is that a leader thinks of others.

"My definition of leadership would be somebody that puts the goal of the team or the group above themselves. Leadership puts everyone else ahead of them. They make sure others around them are successful and have the opportunity to be successful," said GJHS teacher Landon McKee. He teaches the school's new Champion Development class and is GJHS varsity football coach.

"For me, leadership is just the decision to take a responsibility to help and to guide others through anyways you can," Caro Gaspar said.

"Somebody that can handle multiple things at once and treat everyone the same," said GJHS junior and ALT (Advanced Leadership Team) member Kayla



Senior Murphy Harris and juniors Joseph Salazar, Mason Anderson and Triston Rogers of the Advanced Leadership Team hype up fellow students at a school assembly. Photos by GJHS class of 2021 graduate Lilly Caldwell.

Jakopic.

Leadership can also be a stressful position as there can be a lot going behind the scenes that people may not notice. According to global leadership data website, 65% of leaders experience burnout from being in a leadership position.

"If you're not ready for it and you don't prepare yourself for it mentally and to work through all the strife that can come about. Failure can come from not being able to do what you want to do. It can be really stressful, but I think if you chose to be a leader you probably do it for a reason and at the end of the day you can be happy that you help others," Caro Casper said.

Leadership also comes with a unique set of goals you can have.

"Depending on the scenario and the situation, an overarching goal as a leader would be to create the best possible culture and be the standard of that culture and always doing the right thing and being in the right

place," said McKee

Students looking to get into leadership programs may want to look into ALT, Student Council, Equity Club, Gay Straight Alliance, national honors society, Future Business Leaders of America, Academic team, Stuco, Art club, any sport and any other club at GJHS.

ALT members senior Jordan Queen and junior Mason Anderson high fiving at freshman orientation.

