



Preparing to Progress

Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Action

2026 Student Service Club Impact Report

A Year of Growth and Partnership

This was a year of meaningful growth for the Student Service Club, as partnerships expanded and collective impact deepened. We were especially grateful to the educators who renewed their trust in us and to those who joined us in partnership, **united in preparing students to be future-ready through the power of giving**. As a result, we strengthened our staff, knowledge, experience, and capacity to deliver impactful learning opportunities that inspired students to lead, serve, and make a difference.

Preparing Students to Progress

This year's theme, **Preparing to Progress**, reflected the Ryan Nece Foundation's continued commitment to equipping high school students with the skills, mindset, and confidence needed to navigate their futures with purpose. At the core of this work was our Student Service Club model: An intentional, hands-on experience designed to support students on a journey of self-discovery and growth.

Building Self-Awareness and Leadership

Through the Student Service Club model, students explored their unique strengths, interests, and values, establishing a foundation for leadership and lifelong learning. With educators and community partners, we believe education is most powerful when students understand themselves and contribute to something greater than themselves.

Learning Through Action

By engaging in collective action and addressing real-world challenges, students began to see themselves as problem-solvers, collaborators, and leaders. These experiences were intentionally designed to foster critical thinking, strengthen empathy, and empower students to take ownership of their impact within their communities.

Our Mission

Creating opportunities for teens to embrace the Power of Giving through volunteerism and inspirational leadership programs.

Celebrating

20

Years of Impact

Our Program

The Student Service Club is a school-based program providing high school students with leadership development lessons and community service opportunities to create positive change.

"I feel so fortunate to have the Ryan Nece Foundation visit each month to present such engaging lessons! My students love the lessons and refer to them often..."

Thanks for enriching our curriculum!"

-Partnering Teacher, Spoto High School



Self-Discovery

Skill-building and mindset shifts

Our Approach to Student Learning



Growth Moves

Applying skills for personal growth



Action

Engaging in impactful solutions

Numbers Overview

2,000+

Students
Served
per Month

20

Teacher
Partners
(including 6 new educators)

17

Schools
Served
in Hillsborough and Pinellas
Counties (including 5 new
school partners)

70

Class Periods
Served
per Month
(on average)

High School Partners

Alonso
Brandon
Chamberlain
Durant
East Bay

Freedom
Gaither
Jefferson
Jacobson Tech.
King

Lennard
Plant City
Sickles
Spoto

Strawberry Crest
Sumner
Wharton



Measuring Real Student Impact

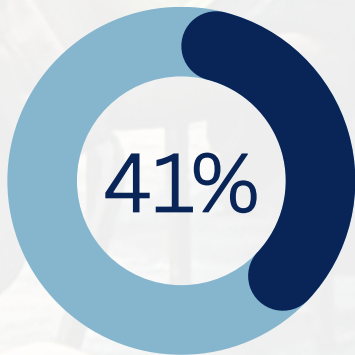
From Mind Shifts to Growth Moves: Action

True impact is not determined by how many students hear a lesson, but how many students apply the lesson. That transition from Mind Shifts to Growth Moves is the ultimate metric of learning and success.

“I never thought of myself as a leader. I thought leaders were the loudest people in the room. The Ryan Nece Foundation showed me that the most powerful thing you can do is show up for someone else - quietly, consistently, without needing the credit. That changed everything for me.”

-11th Grade Student, Brandon High

Top Results



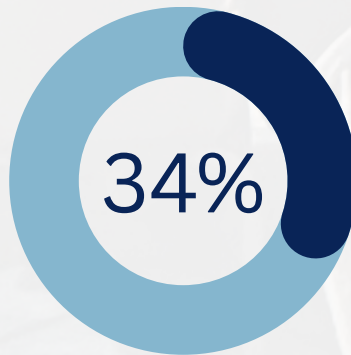
Time Management

75/183 students

- Using planners/calendars
- Prioritizing tasks
- Reducing procrastination

“I have started using the Eisenhower Matrix to prioritize tasks based on urgency and importance.”

-9th Grade Student, Brandon High



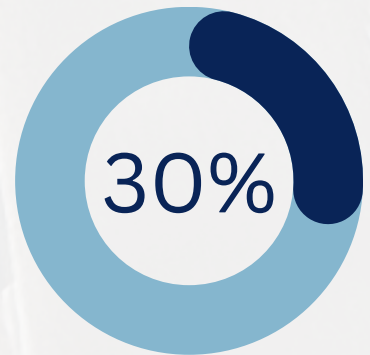
Finance

65/191 students

- Saving money
- Budgeting
- Spending more intentionally

“I started budgeting my expenses and saving a set amount from every paycheck to optimize my spending.”

-12th Grade Student, Alonso High



AI Awareness

75/183 students

- Reducing reliance on AI
- Using AI more thoughtfully

“AI helps me understand lessons faster and gives me support...but it's important to use it in an ethical way and still do my own thinking.”

-10th Grade Student, Gaither High



Emotional Intelligence

23/51 students

- Managing emotions
- Showing empathy
- Improving relationships



Career Planning

21/57 students

- Planning for the future
- Taking school more seriously



Ethics & Values

27/87 students

- Thinking before acting
- Making better choices
- Acting with integrity



Communication

40/135 students

- Speaking up
- Resolving conflicts
- Improving conversations

Connecting Students to Leaders Pathways and Pivots: Inspiration

39

Greater Tampa Bay professionals participated in a career panel or as subject expert speakers

By demystifying success, career panelists and financial literacy speakers bridged the gap between the classroom and the real world. They proved to thousands of students how success is not a straight upward line, but a collective journey of continuous learning, resilience, and service.

How are students converting insights into immediate **next steps of growth?**

1

Strategic Career & Educational Planning

Students expressed a clear shift toward proactive research and financial preparation for their post-secondary lives.

Action Taken: Developing concrete post-graduation plans and researching scholarship opportunities to avoid debt.

"I now realize that having a plan for after high school is crucial."

-12th Grade Student, Spoto High

2

Professional Networking & Relationship Building

A significant number of students identified networking as a vital skill they plan to actively cultivate.

Action Taken: Seeking out mentors, shadowing professionals, and building "humanity-centered" connections.

"I am going to improve [my networking] skill as much as possible."

-12th Grade Student, Alonso High

3

Community Engagement & Local Leadership

Students redefined leadership as taking initiative through service rather than just holding a formal title.

Action Taken: Committing to volunteer work, joining school clubs, and mentoring younger peers.

"It motivated me to step up more in school and look for ways to serve my community."

-11th Grade Student, Strawberry Crest High

4

Development of "Soft Skills" and Communication

The panels influenced students to focus on their interpersonal presentation and advocacy skills.

Action Taken: Practicing "elevator speeches," preparing for interviews, and improving public speaking.

"It opened my eyes to be better with public speaking and being able to ask questions more often."

-12th Grade Student, Plant City High

5

Resilience and Growth Mindset Adoption

Students reported a new understanding of the non-linear nature of success, reducing anxiety about "pivoting" careers.

Action Taken: Re-evaluating current paths with the confidence that failure is a learning opportunity.

"I feel more confident in myself and less ashamed for any thoughts of doubt I have."

-12th Grade Student, Sumner High

6

Workforce Preparedness & Vocational Exploration

The sessions opened students' eyes to diverse industries, such as trades, cybersecurity, and non-profits.

Action Taken: Exploring apprenticeships and technical certifications as viable alternatives to traditional four-year degrees.

"I should start looking into careers that fit me and start preparing."

-12th Grade Student, Gaither High

Beyond the Classroom: The Impact of Service Learning

We piloted **5** service-learning field trips to Feeding Tampa Bay, where **60+** students sorted, packed, and prepped food, resulting in a total of **38,190 pounds** equivalent to **31,823 meals**.

The service-learning field trips helped students bring service to life by applying practical skills, strengthening collaboration and teamwork, and connecting their experiences to future career pathways, demonstrating how hands-on learning can build readiness, confidence, and purpose beyond the classroom.

Translating Service into Skills in Action

Tactical (Hard Skills)

Quality Control

"Knowing what to look for with food labels and finding where certain dates were at on certain foods."

-11th Grade Student, Brandon High

Adaptability

"It taught me how to be okay with playing multiple roles. I don't just have to be the expiration date checker, I can be the one who gets the boxes."

-10th Grade Student, Spoto High

Logistical Organization

"How to organize to make things easier and more orderly."

-10th Grade Student, Spoto High

Interpersonal (Soft Skills)

Empathy

"[This trip taught me] to be open to anyone's situations."

-10th Grade Student, Wharton High

Adult Interaction

"It was very fun; I learned how to be more active and speak up more with grown adults."

-10th Grade Student, Spoto High

Cooperation

"I gained skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. I also learned to be more patient and understanding of others."

-10th Grade Student, Gaither High

"This trip made me feel more included and me realize that people can make a big difference."

-10th Grade Student, Spoto High

"I realized that small actions can actually help a lot of people."

-10th Grade Student, Gaither High

"This trip made me feel good. Helping and collaborating with others, I felt like I had a purpose."

-10th Grade Student, Wharton High



From Learning to Meaningful Action

Providing inspirational lessons that engage students through self-discovery and personal growth leads to meaningful action, especially when students are given opportunities to apply what they learn. As the Student Service Club expands, its collective impact is strengthened through community partnerships which increase access to real-world experiences. **We are seeing how students value these lessons, volunteer participation increases by grade level, and service-learning trips help students put the power of giving into action.**

What We Learned

Student Engagement

- Students value real-life relevance in lessons
- Students prefer interactive, hands-on learning experiences

Learning should progress from exploration to application across grade levels.

Volunteer Patterns

- Volunteer hours rise with grade level
- 12th grade students contribute the most hours
- Earlier grades exhibit lower engagement

Earlier grade levels need structured encouragement to build volunteer habits sooner.

Service-Learning Field Trips

- Trips served as an entry point to service
- Students connected experiences to future interests
- Students identified growth in social awareness and empathy

Service-learning trips are transformational experiences that build essential life and workforce skills.

“I like how the Ryan Nece Foundation better prepares us for the future, and I also like how the information is actually useful to us and helps us grow. I do not like how you only appear once a month, I personally think we should have semester classes or electives revolving around what you teach and do. I have never heard of any volunteer opportunities around this school before up until yours.”

-10th Grade Student, King High

A Call to Action

We are excited about the **next 20 years of student learning and service**, where students are empowered to discover meaningful ways to support their communities by identifying and solving real challenges within their personal lives, schools, and neighborhoods. By fostering critical thinking, compassion, and action, we will continue to equip students with the skills and opportunities needed to create lasting, positive change.

Crafting Future Lessons and Experiences from Student Reflections

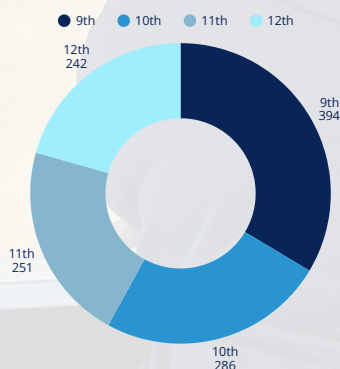
1,173

Responses were collected in May 2026

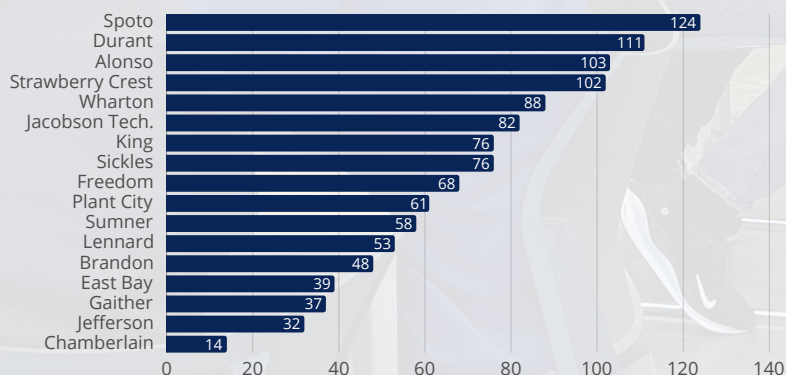
Students completed an End-of-Year Survey, reflecting on their leadership growth, motivations for volunteering, and evolving service patterns. The data and results offer insights that will help expand opportunities for students to lead, serve, and make a lasting impact on the community.

Student Data Overview

Responses by Grade Level

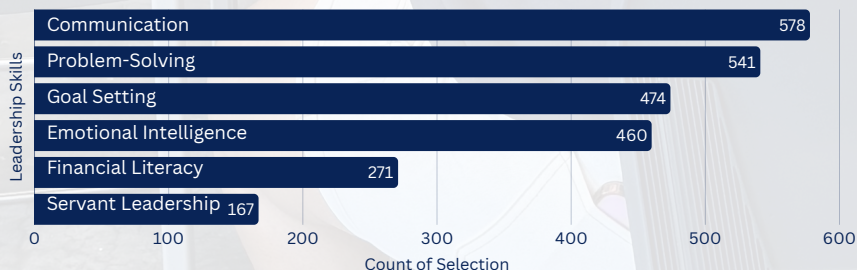


Student Responses by High Schools

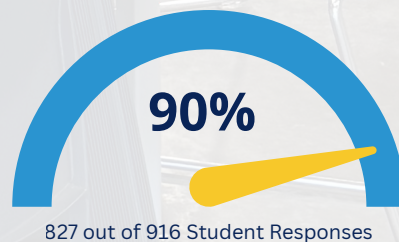


Q: What leadership skill(s) did you apply?

Leadership Skills Applied by Students (Multi-Select)



Q: Did you apply any leadership skills learned from the program this school year?



Skill-Based Results (Source: Monthly Lesson Takeaways)

Skill: Emotional Intelligence

33% of 1217 students identified self-management as a critical growth area.

How students are applying lesson skills:

- Pausing before reacting (improved self management)
- Recognizing emotions in peers (growth in empathy)
- Listening more (enhanced communication)
- Understanding triggers (increased self awareness)

“I figured that I could take some time to think about myself and name about how I’m feeling.”

-11th Grade Student, Chamberlain High

Skill: Communication

65% of 689 students reported applying negotiation or persuasion skills in real-life situations.

How students are applying lesson skills:

- Family: Explaining reasoning instead of arguing
- Academics: Collaborating more effectively in groups
- Friendships: Finding common ground

“It’s helped me communicate more calmly and effectively.”

-12th Grade Student, Alonso High

Skill: Time Management

60% of 1187 students began applying new time management strategies.

How students are applying lesson skills:

- Studying for tests and exams
- Completing homework and assignments
- Managing stress and avoiding burnout
- Improving focus and staying on task
- Breaking large tasks into manageable chunks

“I started breaking my tasks into smaller parts and focused on one thing at a time.”

-9th Grade Student, Brandon High

Partnership Impact

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Ryan Nece Foundation's Student Service Clubs during the 2025-2026 academic school year. Because of you, we celebrate meaningful accomplishments and look ahead with purpose and possibility. Your commitment empowers students to lead, serve, and grow, creating lasting impact today and inspiring an even brighter future ahead.

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"...thank you for being such fantastic advocates and support for my students and myself...I can't wait for next year."

-Partnering Teacher, Wharton High