

IBSC, 2022: Towards a New Understanding of Civic Responsibility

- **A. Develop a broad community engagement strategy.**

Implementation:

- Identify opportunities to support greater Dallas city initiatives.
 - Dallas Works: Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program
 - Voter Registration Efforts
 - [AmeriCorps Summer Terms](#)
 - [Student Clerk Poll Workers, Dallas County Elections Department](#)
- Cultivate relationships with academic institutions and other organizations that share a similar commitment to the well-being of Dallas.
 - Assist Wesley Rankin Community Center with its Aspiring Professionals Program (High School Academic Programs), Friday Family Events, and Field Trips
 - Support Wesley Rankin Summer Program by providing visiting guests (musicians, chess tutors, etc.) and hosting a planetarium visit
 - Reach out to and schedule local elementary schools for planetarium visits: Walnut Hill, Gooch, Pershing Elementary
 - [Collaborative work with Northaven Trail, Paul Quinn College, and/or other community gardens](#)
- Review the community service program to explore opportunities to expand its impact.
 - City Square: Middle School Food Drive (Thanksgiving Day Drive)
 - City Square: School-wide Plastic Bag Drive
 - City Square: Zoom Tours of the Pantry and Advisory Pantry Volunteer Day
 - City Square: Congrats Bags for Recent Graduates in City Square's TRAC Program (for homeless DISD students and those about to age-out of foster care)
 - Wesley Rankin Tutoring and/or Weekly Club Sponsorship

- **B. Develop curriculum for Upper School students to broaden their understanding of civic engagement and leadership.**

Implementation:

- Design new course offerings that prepare students for public service, civic leadership, and governance.
 - AP Econ creation of course units (data sets and geospatial mapping) under guidance of and in collaboration with Alan Cohen and CPAL
 - Senior Elective: History of Dallas and St. Mark's (how a modern major city's government is structured and works)
 - Fourth Grade Unit on Human Rights (tie-in with field trip)

- Summer Civil Rights Field Trip (Little Rock, Memphis, Selma, Birmingham, and Atlanta)
 - Summer Presidential Libraries Field Trip (Austin, College Station, Dallas)
- Encourage a regular and healthy public discourse among students (and entire school community) regarding public policy issues and solutions.
 - Civic Responsibility Speaker Program: Eli Van Oort, Ariana Reynaga, Meredith Parrott, and Grace Bergeron (City Square); Shelli Ross (Director of Wesley Rankin Community Center); COL Will Hagood, Retired (Civil Engineer); Korey Mack on political campaigns; Matt Osborne on Human Trafficking
- Seek opportunities for students to become engaged in civic activities.
 - 4th grade unit on human rights, Dallas history and civics, culminating in a field trip to the Dallas African American Museum, Klyde Warren Park (for lunch provided by Café Momentum and a talk on stewardship) followed by a tour of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum
 - Voter Registration Efforts (booth in Cullum Commons for 4 weeks prior to election)
 - 9th grade sequence of experiences and field trips: City Square tour, (poverty simulation exercise), Bush Center tour (global health), CPAL speaker
 - Student Clerk Poll Works, Dallas County Elections Department
 - Student attendance at a City Council Meeting
- **C. Explore further opportunities to share St. Mark's resources with public schools in the greater Dallas community.**

Implementation:

1. Review and assess existing and possible DISD after-school programs and summer programs on the St. Mark's campus.
 - St. Mark's Makerspace projects in conjunction with needs of local non-profits (for City Square's tiny-house village and its gift bags for recent high school and college grads)
 - St. Mark's Planetarium hosted Wesley Rankin after school program students (and soon to host DISD elementary students - Walnut Hill, Gooch, Pershing)
 - Share fine arts events (final dress rehearsals) and science lab experiences with schools and youth programming organizations
 - Host a STEAM Day for Wesley Rankin Summer Program (3D Printer and Laser Cutter, Organ Concert and Lecture, Acting and Improv Class)
2. Explore opportunities for greater involvement by St. Mark's students and faculty in community engagement programs on and off campus.
 - College Counseling Office providing guidance and advice to City Square's Transition Resource Action Center's College Day and Wesley Rankin's Aspirational Professionals Program
 - Combined Student, Faculty, Alum, Retirees Community Service Projects
 - Advancement Office RoundTable Lunch: working lunch with several local non-profits, sharing best practices and challenges
 - St. Mark's faculty participation in Point-in-Time's Homeless Census