

AMBUNK

Week of:
August 1, 2022

GREAT PLAINS AMBUCS NEWSLETTER

A publication of
Great Plains AMBUCS
Lawton, OK
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THIS WEEK

The August 1, 2022 club meeting was called to order by Jenny Clement-Shaw. Vic Menendez led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.



Sheila Maxson

Sheila Maxson with Eisenhower High School's Education Alive program was the guest speaker. She is entering her ninth year at EHS. A former English teacher, Maxson has spent the past six to eight years working with the school's character education program. Education Alive is designed for freshmen to help them transition to a high school setting. By high school, Maxson said the expectation is for students to have matured past what can often be challenging middle school years. She says that is currently not happening at the rate that it did in the past.

The program's topics include proper behavior in a classroom, why grades are important and interviewing skills. Educators focus on real world skills, some as simple as the proper way to shake hands.

Maxson said students are often faced with situations that arise in the classroom. Education Alive explains how to approach their teachers with questions or concerns. Maxson used poor grades as an example. "You can't just go up the teacher and say 'hello, you need to change this. This is totally incorrect.' She may get a little defensive and you're probably not going to get your grade changed." Maxson said students are taught how to politely talk with their teachers about ways to improve grades, without getting an attitude.

The freshmen are encouraged to join

clubs, play sports and be involved with extracurricular activities. They work with upperclassmen mentors who are chosen from a variety of backgrounds or cliques. They are tasked with teaching at least one weekly lesson on topics they deem important.

Maxson said Eisenhower is preparing to welcome 415 new freshmen to campus for the upcoming school year. She said it is the largest number during her time at EHS. She and other educators are concerned because these students have not had a normal year of school, due to the pandemic, since the fifth grade. Maxson believes the students are not only behind academically, but also emotionally. They will be among the first to take part in the Education Alive program purchased by Lawton Public Schools. The course will be in conjunction with EHS' Lead for Change program, which has been successful for many years. In 2017, Eisenhower was recognized as a National School of Character. Teachers received training in Washington, D.C. on ways to bring new ideas to freshmen.

This year EHS will also offer Project Aware, which will provide mental health resources to students. Counselors will be able to go their homes to offer support. In addition, the school is launching a pilot program called Eagle Court. Maxson said it will be similar to Teen Court. Upper

classmen will serve as a jury and will determine consequences. The goal is to solve issues that could otherwise result in students receiving in-school suspension or suspension.

Mentors are also looking for volunteer opportunities. Last year, they worked with Habitat for Humanity. Maxson believes some of her students will be interested in volunteering on projects with our chapter.

FLAME OF THE WEEK

Vic Menendez was honored as Jenny's Flame of the week. While he said he used to be the oldest member in the club, that has now changed with new membership. Vic is a past chapter and national president. He has been involved with Great Plains AMBUCS on and off since 1992. His father was also an AMBUC. Vic will be recognized for his service as past national president during the upcoming National AMBUCS Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

GUESTS

Caitlin Gatlin
Sponsored by Monte Brown

DISTRICT RAMP BUILD

Great Plains AMBUCS members joined Mountain Metro and Lawton AMBUCS to pour their heart, muscle and sweat into a wheelchair ramp for a young man in Lawton on Saturday, August 6. A pre-build was held on Thursday. Kaiyo Raethong was paralyzed following a car crash in 2021. The ramp project was featured in the [Lawton Constitution](#) and by [KSWO-TV](#).



50/50

Scott Meaders drew the Seven of Diamonds. The pot stood at \$339.

NEWSLETTER

Bobby Henderson had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.