

Service Above Self is a cornerstone of the Los Gatos Union School District (LGUSD) mission. It cultivates the development of many of the Student Success Profile traits. The profile is made up of six traits: critical thinking, empathy, collaboration, communication, learners mindset, and adaptability. We strive to instill these traits in ALL our students to prepare them to be socially and globally responsible, and academically successful. For the past two years, LGUSD has spearheaded an international community-wide service project providing books and educational technology to five schools in Guatemala. Our five schools, four elementary schools and one middle school, were assigned a Guatemalan partner school. This initiative was integrated in our World Language program, spanning grades transitional kindergarten through eighth grade. The larger community learned about the project through partnerships with key community organizations. Igniting Minds Worldwide was put together as a recap of the previous year and a call to action for the 2024-2025 campaign. The focus was on how books and educational technology impact the students in Guatemala along with highlighting how LGUSD connects these opportunities to its 2700 students. LGUSD Communications edited footage provided by Los Gatos Rotarians and members of World Possible Guatemala into a compelling and engaging video story with a front-row seat to the impact of the program. It also reinforced LGUSDs commitment to collaborating with the community. The video was uploaded to YouTube and shared with school sites, teachers, parents, and community organizations at the beginning of the donation campaign. It was also posted on our Facebook page. Principals showed the video at school wide assemblies and many teachers used it in their classrooms to start discussions. As of today, over 2900 individuals from across the school and community have viewed the video and an additional 134 views on Facebook. Was LGUSD successful? This campaign represents our most successful Guatemalan book drive to date, surpassing our targets for both book donations and fundraising for educational technology. Beyond mere numbers, "Igniting Minds Worldwide" ignited a profound sense of connection and purpose within the LGUSD community. It fostered meaningful classroom dialogues about cultural similarities and differences, deepened awareness of Hispanic countries and cultures, and inspired our students to create over 1,374 personalized bookmarks and write 764 letters to their 1,458 Guatemalan peers.

This exchange of knowledge and empathy exemplifies the transformative power of Service Above Self, leaving an indelible mark on both our students and the global community we serve.