

Gilbert Alumni,

It has been a fantastic fall at Gilbert this year! The Gilbert High School won a national award when it was named a Blue Ribbon School. According to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, "These great schools are fulfilling the promise of American education—that all students, no matter their name or zip code, can flourish when schools provide safe, creative, and a challenging learning environment. National Blue Ribbon Schools are models of consistent excellence and a resource for other schools and districts. We celebrate them for their tireless effort and boundless creativity in reaching and teaching every student." Two members of the Gilbert staff, High School Principal Layne Billings and Curriculum Director Hope Bossard will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to accept this award. We believe this award is not only a reflection of the great teaching and learning being done at our high school but also throughout all of our grade levels. We are very proud of our student body for working so hard academically. Only nineteen traditional public high schools in the United States received this honor.

We have also had an outstanding fall sports season. Our Cross Country Boys Team won the first ever State Championship for boys in the Gilbert district. Our Cross Country Girls team took runner up as well. We also have two state champions, Grace Gibbons and Thomas Pollard, and three other runners who finished in the top ten; Carly Rahn, Wes Greder, and Brad Richards. Our football team made it to the second round of playoffs, losing to a very solid DCG team after overcoming losses of several key players to injuries. Our volleyball squad also made it to the second round, eventually losing to a solid Nevada team. We are also debuting our first ever Variety Show and will have twenty three acts, featuring everything from musical theater to skits to instrumental and vocal solos, and dancing. The show will be on November 14th and 15th at 7:00 p.m., if you are in the area and would like to join us.

Our local FFA chapter continues to thrive and be a source of pride for the district. They have started a really interesting community garden program that will benefit the community as well as be a great learning tool for students. They have built a partnership with AGCO that is proving to be very valuable to the program. The following link will allow you to see what we are doing in this partnership:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvdHM2ECGNA>

The district was also awarded a four hundred and ten thousand dollar grant from the state last year to implement a Teacher Leadership grant. We have several teachers who have taken a leadership role in the individual buildings and are working in conjunction with classroom teachers to provide assistance in enhancing student learning. The TLC group has done an excellent job piloting this program in our district. We will keep you updated as we progress through this new and exciting program.

The Gilbert Education Foundation invites you to purchase a paver brick with special engraving personalized for you or someone special to you. Each brick will have a face dimension equal to 4" x 8" and placed into a patio adjacent to the main entry of the High School. The patio will be completed summer 2015.

Buy a brick for your upcoming graduate (class of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018..), past graduate, favorite teacher, staff member, alum or anyone you wish to recognize or remember. The possibilities are endless! Each brick will have two lines with no more than 14 characters each. The cost per brick is \$100. Multiple bricks can be purchased. This is a gift that will last a lifetime!

Buying a brick is easy!

If you would like to buy your brick(s) using a credit card, visit the website at www.gilbertiowafoundation.org, click on "Support the Foundation" tab and it will direct you from there.

Enjoy this lovely fall weather while it lasts and feel free to stop in and visit us any time.