

Ukulele Music

Keith: welcome to the LeeCoSchools Edcast number ten with the Beulah high school student council and their sponsor mrs. Suzanne fender what an inspiring group of kids

Kyle: I'll tell you what I was super impressed with them as an organization and just as human beings you know this student council is unlike any group that I've really seen they do so much fundraising and so much to help people in their community help people in their schools and it's so selfless you know it's something that I think is this world really needs nowadays is being able to help other people without thinking about what you're gonna get back in return

Keith: I learned just how selfish and horrible of a human being I am

Kyle: we were sitting in there we were listening to some of the things they were saying like I just need to be a better human being now yeah just looking at what these kids do and and their the number of students involved in student council blew me away because I mean were there 50 some-odd students

Keith: and that's a small group

Kyle: that's a small group they usually run about 70 it's like 10% of the student body at that high school yeah it's so huge and then what we learned about they have people who are not involved in student council who will come and volunteer their time just to help out just to go do some of the more fun things but they're all things that are helping other people yeah in their community it's just as their a top notch group the kids are great miss fender is fantastic

Keith: literally every activity we talked to them about was some sort of community service project right everything they're doing is for some kind of community service yeah oriented thing right and every dollar they raise goes right out the door right for something else yes to help somebody else we talked about a lot of them and we don't even get to all of them

Kyle: right so she actually emailed us we talked about what I thought was a whole lot and then when we got done she emailed us it was like oh here's the four other things we didn't even mention that we also do their fundraisers that specifically help people in their school and the county

Keith: they ring bells for Salvation Army during the holidays and a couple of other things but he's really good just know that they're not sitting idle no and if you have any questions comments complaints criticisms compliments colloquialisms conundrums concerns or suggestions for...

Kyle: absolutely we will be we would love to have your suggestions for any future podcast anyone that you would like us to talk to any topics you would like us to broach anything we would love to have it

Keith: you can find us on the web at www.lee.k12.al.us/edcast, on Twitter @LeeCoSchools, on Facebook at facebook.com/leecoschools or by email at Edcast@lee.k12.al.us Kyle...

Kyle: here we go!

Funky Transition Music

Keith: so here we are with the Beulah High student council when we were trying to figure out what exactly to talk about out here at the Beulah service area we asked miss Layla Bunn what out in Beulah should we talk about or who should we talk to in the immediate thing that she said was the student

council um so we wanted to come and talk to you guys and we're excited to have you all here I wish we could have had everybody but I think we've had to run out like a the auditorium or something for everybody

Kyle: how many of y'all is it?

Beulah High Student Council: it's just a small group. we only have about 50 students

Kyle: Wow

Beulah High Student Council: that's small

Kyle: what is a big group look like for y'all

Beulah High Student Council: normally we have like 75

Kyle: okay so we're here with the officers

Beulah High Student Council: officers and really involved members

Kyle: gotcha all right okay so I guess we should just go around the room and introduce ourselves

Keith: and if you have an official title tell us that too because I'm a fan of titles

Kyle: and favorite color

Beulah High Student Council: my name is ashlynn my name is Erin S and I'm the 12th grade representative my name is Kenzie and I'm the secretary Jake Tillman and I'm the president Erin M and I'm a tenth grade representative I'm Maddie and our 10th grade representative Lexi and I'm the treasurer Kinsley T and I'm the vice president Selina karlie and I'm the 11th grade class representative I'm Stella and a representative. Thomas, 9th grade representative. Suzanne Fender and I'm the sponsor

Kyle: very good

Keith: so I just want to point mr. president I point out that you have barely a corner of the table so we see this is purely a ceremonial title

Kyle: so can you guys tell us what the student council here does throughout the year whoever most answer

Beulah High Student Council: we're a student organization do work with the community and the school just different projects that we can come up with raising money or just getting kids involved with this little

Keith: so what are we raising money for just to roll around in like Scrooge McDuck

Beulah High Student Council: different kind of organizations like right now working with Relay for Life we do sort of like raise money for different churches or service projects for them like bagging groceries or just being there to help in any way we can and we also help needy and our community

Kyle: like what can you say

Beulah High Student Council: like at Christmastime we do like a shopping thing and we like raise money throughout the year for it and we buy Christmas gifts for the needy and our community

Kyle: so this was actually something that Layla mentioned we were talking you know this is a big deal this was not a small undertaking what are you talking about that

Beulah High Student Council: we usually all get one kid to support and we get a list of the things that they want or need and we all split up or pair up and Walmart Sunday around December and we go by the list and we all meet up at the end she gives us the time and we check out we come up with huge list of stuff that we bought

Keith: It's like a CVS receipt!

Kyle: and so how do you get the money for this

Beulah High Student Council: fundraisers

Keith: what kind of fundraisers

Beulah High Student Council: top turkey teacher

Kyle: tell me some more about that

Beulah High Student Council: students pay twenty-five cents for a feather for the teachers like

Kyle: you pit the teachers against each other

Beulah High Student Council: oh yes all the time and we've actually had to tell teachers they aren't allowed to give money because it gets

Kyle: so big buy-in from the teachers for this and so what do you win if you're the top turkey teacher

Beulah High Student Council: you actually get a turkey but we take a plate and put the teacher's face on the plate like their picture on it then the feathers around them so they're a little turkey it gets pretty big we've had them to where we actually have to make two or three plates for the teachers

Kyle: are you serious

Beulah High Student Council: know what do you get us artfully put the corner yet I'm suppose to canned foods and turkeys and chickens and anything that we can buy for the needy and the community and churches like if the church has like night a little thanksgiving front the community room will help out with that I would buy for them and just helping out anyway we can. It's really fun seeing all the huge turkeys we hang out in the hall

Kyle: so it's in the hallway with all the feathers

Beulah High Student Council: yeah right in front of the library. we hung it from the ceiling last year I know. this happened last year he had another teacher who was so competitive about the turkey that another teacher as a joke, our driver's ed teacher, she stole the turkey and she taped it to the front of the driver's ed car and she drove up in front of the school and ran and got the teacher and said oh my god I ran over your turkey as it was crossing the road Wow I mean like the turkey just disappeared we went like oh we now know where it went asking everybody where's our turkey at. They made like

wanted signs for the turkey yeah. Tell them what the students get out of this. whichever is divided up into like oh it was a second period your second period class that's what teacher you voted for that was who you were designated to I guess you could vote for any teacher but that's the teacher that what you want we voted in the class you voted in I guess yeah yeah the class that raised the most money you get she cooks a breakfast

Kyle: you what now?

Beulah High Student Council: I cook a grits casserole. It's so good!

Kyle: you know, I was sitting here thinking wow they really have a lot of student engagement, how do they get this? Food, obviously!

Beulah High Student Council: I think some of the teachers has bribed them with certain things like food or candy

Keith: now here's the here's the big question are teachers bribing students from other classes trying to get their votes

Beulah High Student Council: if it's like a if that teacher wins she's gonna give to her classes whatever she puts wins or that class that Kyle: well I mean you know I think anyone who would be listening to this podcast if they can figure out a way to engage literally every student in their school and all their staff in something that and then the benefits gonna help you know community I think that's fantastic

Beulah High Student Council: I mean it's kind of gross sometimes you get how much

Keith: so a box of gloves

Kyle: how much do y'all normally raise with this

Beulah High Student Council: for the turkeys? around \$500

Kyle: in quarters?!? that's pretty good

Beulah High Student Council: our bookkeeper hates it

Kyle: you need to do something nice for her you to make this something yeah

Keith: so any other fundraisers we got a top Turkey

Beulah High Student Council: spirit chain and we do during Homecoming Week and it's a competition between the senior high and junior high but just the teachers in those divisions and it's 25 cents each for a chain which is just like a little piece of cardboard and we like we can interlock them together and whoever at the end of Thursday I think has the longest chain gets um donate the money they raise to a organization they receive a pizza party or ice cream party or something like that it's really cool because like the Thursday with that Friday walk pep rally the Thursday we get like the chain and there's so long as I'm hanging them in the gym and we have a really big gym and we have something I like she look like drag him down the hallway into just miles of it right it's especially special at the football game to the homecoming game just to see like oh yeah around the football field fence just like how much we've participated in 24

Kyle: what got you guys interested in student council it sounds like y'all got a big

Beulah High Student Council: the cords

Kyle: the what?

Beulah High Student Council: everybody here is just passionate and we're all helpful like everyone in here is really helpful. Giving back to our community yeah it just takes a tiny little step and there's immense things you could do with it if something seems like that's fun she finds a way to make it fun like yeah you're not going out yeah it's like there's nothing that you can't look forward to and be like oh well that's I don't really want to do that cuz that's not gonna be much fun but she finds a way to make everything fun so like our Christmas shopping is something that everybody looks it's probably our favorite that's not that's not today we have people Christmas shopping instant yes just because the satisfaction of like knowing that you're putting a smile on a child's face that doesn't really get to have this stuff on Christmas Day yeah they get to wake up and run to the Christmas tree and have presents up under there of stuff that they like and they need oh I got something I really need like just picturing that in future how much help you worth to that child or to that family that's what really gets me but last year kali richardson the receipt was taller than she was she's supposed to be here today but anyway not always let's mean here so we have a traditional senior picture or they stand next to the cash register with a total and we always have a guessing game we go down the line and say okay how much is it envy how many you know have a good game we have a certain time and we like get to cash registers well like yeah actually and we're just lined up from the cache which are always like the back of the shell he's calling you everybody trying to find you really years and I call this a me two weeks ahead this is the third day December that whatever and she goes yes ma'am two o'clock we have to stand with your gifts and you she scans it puts in a bag you tie your back up write your name on you take it out to the car and help organize it it's just when you're handing it all gone out rasca whenever you're putting it in a bag she gives like these big bags that we get him in and we mark them and we put and we have liked it there like everybody I just there's like this big section we have to move the tables and so I climbed up all around the walls and it looks like on that back wall like where the projector is nice where it is the really fun part valueless is anonymous nobody knows what it is you just give the age known I get a when they're interested in their sizes yeah you get their age with interested in their sizes in like anything that they just want

Kyle: and so what age kids are we serving

Beulah High Student Council: every age babies like two, three to 17. sometimes we put in our own money.

Kyle: so who's in charge the organization it sounds like it's very well organized

Beulah High Student Council: let me just put a plug in for Mrs. Margaret Upton. a lot of these kids are elementary kids and she has done this since the elementary school moved across the road and she we send out a letter also but we get very few comparisons I'm sure and the way we do it is if a parent asks for anything over there they call her she interviews them she has a strict list you have questions and then she asked for their wants and their needs and then writes it on an ornament anyone who is highschool age or any siblings of high school kids come across here and we take care of them yes and that if she has just as many bags over there as we have over here it's really cool I don't get to except for

the few who have gotten to walk two packages over with me very few have seen her setup but it's just as many bags are more over there to say the parents once the kids get to high school they're so nice to go into this up them because they did that on with a 30 told me and she wrote often they call her and then she just sends the name except right now no names yeah she said it's the information and like I said it's only a number no and the the ones that called me because they're starting to know that they can call me bro then I keep we do different one of us we tag them a little bit differently they're different color and we have a tree that we put it on my car miss winters - grab tree that ornaments hang from the tree and you pick it up okay this is mine to sit on buying for and I will recommend teachers in other students we have teachers who come in take a child we have students whose families take your child as well everyone's we shop for yes because the giving tree is more to like the community and like this school so any student can come up and pick one off you don't have yeah Christmas something

Kyle: how often does that happen, you have students out of student council come in

Beulah High Student Council: often anyway we did when we're shopping or we're doing something right you know there's even a little detail stuff like putting something out cousin of feathers people all the time all the time especially when we're getting into we're trying to chop them and we have lots of people sometimes we were practically

Keith: who wraps these presents?

Beulah High Student Council: that's one thing we don't do. we do right I wonder your media driving the number one bathroom for everyone but we feel like they're getting so you know their parents have a little ownership I don't want to look at surprises what do you mean yes because those kids think their parents are yeah we didn't but we do buy wrapping paper and stuff

Keith: that's good cuz I hate wrapping presents it looks like a seven year old wrapped it

Beulah High Student Council: somebody tell about what we do with the Methodist church

Keith: mr. president what do you do with the Methodist church

Beulah High Student Council: you mean like once a month what we did? and they go there they have food and homeless or the needy and we go there whenever they need us and we'll back it into groceries up in this big old table that's like a couple of these long tables slap full of food and what still have more food you just have a banking system everybody has the bathroom yeah like suitable Christmas before everybody has a position everybody knows how it works and then you like step back and look all the bags you're like I just did that on a bag

Kyle: so this isn't the only group you're a part of most of y'all have other

Beulah High Student Council: yeah yeah and that's a real problem I mean I love that they're involved do we do not have a club meeting day all of our club meetings or school or after school on campus as well as were able to make yes yeah because they're so you know I love them ride the bus we're a little bit late you know when we have a sudden about meeting then we'll get there such a pain right so it's very hard that's something I'm working on with off for this and she has promised me that as long as I would take care of that organize it done it will get established a club meeting day thanks for because we used to have that and we were even more involved and more people understood what we were doing and were a part of everything now I have my core group who's always involved but I have some because

they can't get to the meetings that we love to be more involved but can't be because of you know scheduling you know eyelets and participation in other so it's really difficult because I mean not just me a lot of districts here you what good morning come to school what lay people will go to work and then like do it alone you've got to figure out all your clubs what they talked about them the meanings your homework it's really hard because like most of us are on prom committee for juniors and seniors and most of us are on prom committee and it's really hard to come to student council meetings and prime communities because they usually happen on the same day but we find a way

Keith: Mrs. Fender, you got a great group and so how do you keep them engaged. what's your secret other than just pestering them and depriving them of sleep?

Beulah High Student Council: no I'd like they said we try to make things fun and they just the kids at this school have huge hearts I mean and like somebody over there huh Green said we're just a big old family at Beulah and they love doing stuff for other people for each other last year we all to a teacher so I could teleport what a secret what is this made me come to library is she usually has like papers and we like highlight who we want or who's not already taken and so I got this teacher it was my favorite teacher his name is coach Davis and so I got him and you asked some teachers like what they wanted and so I got him like some drinks some day then another day I found movie pasady everyone yeah like some one thing she's like a lot of teachers put like smiles on our face and help us when we're down so it's like really special and we've had a lot of they're just part this is dirt and it's ugly and not welcoming yeah we want to put my trees flowers plants make us look a little bit more approachable and good-looking there's a great group called friends of the Beulah community that are adult leaders around Beulah and amount they are the ones that I came up with that they came to us and said we would love your help so their name is spoke to us at the meeting that karlie is talking about one of the leaders of that group and they're in the planning stages but we're ready to go back in a while to get all the certified permission from the people who actually own the land and we're just you know we have their football season we have tons of visitors we're on any other time of year and their goal was that hopefully get that finished before football season started or anything my best thought would be there ever this summer

Kyle: that's cool though because if so what's the name of the group again

Beulah High Student Council: the name of the group is Friends of the Beulah Community and it's bankers and ministers and fire people and residents from all over Beulah who have an interest in the community and then meet one Friday a month usually the bridge church

Kyle: so other other community or other other organizations in the community that you guys work with besides that one I've got a normal thing or just uh

Beulah High Student Council: well kind of a new organization it really a year and a half two years old and so we we work with the

Beulah you know Methodist Church we work with friends of the Beulah community who else we work with PTA but always work on you know doing stuff with the elementary school. PTO I was taught in the school's oh yeah yeah

Kyle: alright so there's a couple of props in here that my listeners can't see can you tell me about what these things are

Beulah High Student Council: the cooler of plenty we're actually raising all this for Relay for Life mm-hmm and we push it around

Kyle: so I'm gonna give you a tour here I want you to explain what yours what that is so I can see it but no one else can

Beulah High Student Council: it's a big cool beach stuff and it has to beach towels two pair of flip-flops sunscreen aloe two pool noodles of water guns glasses easy lounge folks three tirades twelve packs of coke and Milk Duds M&Ms; or easy peasy sour patch kids picking up rain goes and flying this

Kyle: it looks like it has all that stuff it's colorful and it's beautiful

Beulah High Student Council: you donate a dollar your name gets put up there in the hallway out there we put them all our soul and every time you donate a dollar and even raising art we have to raise \$25 ourselves to go your name gets put in 25 times or just how every dollar now we've tried to guess between twelve and fifteen hundred dollars to the American Cancer Society actually tonight you strength noise don't only take an hour checked right now is \$1,050 that I'll be taking tonight and then that we don't stop tonight we have you know Relay for Life is due next Friday which we wrote it we will continue raising money with the cooler plenty as well as the night ugly lady who will be at our attempts and do people that are just attending that are from all over and Opelika, Lee County they'll also be interested and hopefully they're made lots of dollars that we were also trying to say and you've we try to raise at least \$1,500 every year

Kyle: Wow on top of everything else. I'm gonna ask this and I'm probably wrong, what's this thing over here? Is that just random stuff?

Beulah High Student Council: Hope for the Hungry is basically all of us in Student Council go and buy like water and little debbie cakes or whatever and you put it in the cart and it goes to Divine Intervention ministries

Kyle: so what is that about

Beulah High Student Council: Divine intervention ministry a former teacher and her husband have this organization ministry where they feed the homeless in the Columbus area they have two sons graduated from this school and we started this when their oldest son Jehan was a student council member and so every year since then we have just collected these are now they take hot meals once a week surely the homeless that these are just the site items that you provide so when once a year we did we load up our grocery buggy and then call them and ask them to to come take and use as they see fit

Kyle: and so this is something that you guys buy with they buy with their own money yeah this is not a fundraiser

Beulah High Student Council: this isn't all of it either it'll be a lot more

Kyle: it looks like a lot so no one can see this it's a full shopping cart the things overflowing at the top so there'll be more than this

Beulah High Student Council: a lot more

Keith: does this go on all year

Beulah High Student Council: no just once a year we do it about a week or week and a half

Kyle: so this sounds like takes sort of a lot of funds to do this stuff if someone's listening to this podcast and they just wanted to write a check. is there something you guys need?

Beulah High Student Council: we always need more money so we can give it away. one thing I would love for us to do is to come up with a wishlist of things we can do for the school because most of the money we raise does go out into the community and there's some things I'm sure that would benefit the school. one thing they have not discussed is how to become a member. to be member or they can earn their membership by selling a certain number of donuts years from 10 to 12 and they can also go beyond that and sell a few more and earn the beautiful Student Council t-shirt if you do 10 12 boxes for membership and 10 more I think for your t-shirt I think because all I said we have 52 members this year sometimes there's 75 you know when the krispy kreme man reward and sort of on top of the boots shows you can smell sugar down to the only baby since

Kyle: I walked into the library today the media center I was like I smell food. now I know why

Beulah High Student Council: best for this year cheerleaders they sold them recently so you open here yesterday and you're still sugar

Kyle: so someone wants to become a member that's sort of their first goal

Beulah High Student Council: and we started in September we tried actually we got a late start this year by starting in September we try to start in August right then the group begins and we send out packets parents do have to sign that they know their child is going to participate in student council sure and agree with that because all you know the things we'll be doing and like I said they can write a check for \$25 thirty-five with the t-shirt or they can earn their money by selling the donuts and we sold them nuts but their cards or certificates so you can while earning anybody want any of that that's our number of yes

Kyle: so talking about the service hours I think it was mentioning I don't think we were highlighted so y'all need to accrue hours

Beulah High Student Council: we have to have we have so many a semester that you're participated in for however many years you're in it and at the end from when it's senior year you have to have so many you have to have six per semester so 12 per year that you participated in for you to get your court so we keep track of them like that we keep the ones that you turn in an Ashland is a really cool cumulative this year you say we would just pull them but a couple of weeks ago because she is Miss organized she decided to make so that's where our people joins what does it like to hold that illustrious but to do the event the man truly yes normally so we can come between ever nine young is something that all the Christmas shopping and we write things we were like working on that and the money from the markup we charge admission at the game we're thankful for our players obviously you know an urn community service by participating I should have gotten down on our parents and other people who were too cool to play and just want to come while going to charge them yeah we raised between a thousand eleven hundred dollars of the game on this and then we have concessions yeah our concessions

Kyle: you know I mean I've heard of it we've talked to some other groups and they've had you know oh they do fundraising and don't do one or two big ones a year but it sounds like y'all have upwards of eight seven or eight

Beulah High Student Council: it's a year round thing yeah any members for every I come up with something different rather than my words and say hey what the tree thing that Christians doing the tree how do we have one more event coming up yes last week every day for life we are doing a couple it's called a tree of hope I personally know it's best to be in charge of that and it's just we're getting in definitely on we tried to Aaron Jordan find the right anyway it's just going to be a limb or free and they can donate 50 cents and do a ribbon hanging on our tree and then we honor someone they know that because a cancer survivor or dealing with cancer knows away from cancer Oh that'll be our last little push really like for life next week Wow yeah there's also another one that's really small we we came up with it last year and it's we do something with peeps it's for Easter we think those are a handful but you know it was askew yeah it was it sounded like we were gonna make a lot more off of it but we didn't make a lot of it was still fun we made it wasn't really big because we yeah

Kyle: but that's okay I mean that's cool that you have a club organizer that is okay with you guys just hey we're gonna try this we're and you guys have such a passionate heart about what y'all do and that you want to make this stuff

Beulah High Student Council: we have new stuff like every year somebody will come here it does take a big group of big hearted people but none of this would be possible without Mrs. Fender she doesn't give herself enough credit or she is still being role hold our students if we come to her, Mrs. Fender we really need to talk about something we really need to she's there is always involved in every single thing she's always trying to find a way to help somebody and she's on top of everything my mom one minute she's a mentor

Kyle: tell me, how long have you done this?

Beulah High Student Council: I have been doing this 28 years. I did not take over student council, I was in the classroom and FCLA was my baby because I was the family consumer science teacher did that until 2000 when I moved into the library about a year later coach Ron you've been stating counsel and I took over from him so I probably doing this 17 years

Kyle: for that amount of time you've been doing things like this nonstop

Keith: were you just continuing the same thing or did you expand up on it

Beulah High Student Council: oh we expanded upon it. now the spirit chain coach Brown started he think they had he'd have done that at his high school and yellow got with him and so we have continued and you know actually grown that also that some of the other projects some things we haven't continued some things we have some things we did every other year but we had them this and while this brought again yeah that one stay on that I love it

Kyle: well I'll tell you what if you could write a book on fundraising and getting a group this of this many people to be involved, you'd have a million dollars

Keith: that money would go right out the door to the community

Kyle: that's great!

Keith: well guys thank you so much is there anything else that y'all wanted to mention or talk about

Beulah High Student Council: I'm scared we're forgetting something

Keith and Kyle: alright you guys, well continue to be awesome

Ukulele Music