



“EVERY STUDENT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED; IT'S UP TO US TO UNLOCK THAT POTENTIAL.”
- SAL KHAN



TOWN HALL WITH

Sal Khan

 Khan Academy



"Don't let fear of failure hold you back from pursuing your dreams." – Sal Khan

This was exemplified when Carlos Diaz, a Hobart High School student, sparked a conversation about Sal Khan, the founder of Khan Academy. Carlos, along with Mrs. Stephanie Franco, was working on a junior English class project, interviewing someone embodying the American Dream. They chose Sal Khan, a child of immigrant parents who became the Founder and CEO of the international nonprofit, Khan Academy.

Khan Academy is a nonprofit educational organization that offers free lessons in math, science, humanities and test prep, as well as tools for parents, teachers and districts to track student progress. As Sal Khan would say, he pursued his dream and opportunity to provide free education all around the world. The results? To date, the Khan Academy has over 165 million registered users globally of all ages! Khan Academy began piloting an AI tool called Khanmigo that is a tutor and teaching assistant. The School City of Hobart is one of the school districts out of 53 in the nation who piloted the AI version of Khanmigo and offered feedback to the research and development teams at Khan.

When Sal Khan was asked if he would do an interview with Carlos by Superintendent Dr. Buffington, not only did he say yes, this conversation evolved into a district-wide Town Hall with over 4,000 Hobart staff and students engaging with an innovator who had dreams and created opportunities for others by simply wanting to help his cousins with math which grew into the phenomena of world wide free educational tools. Fascinating! Brickie students submitted over 700 questions for Sal Khan for the Town Hall. We landed on 10 questions from students (K-12). As a school district that has used Khan Academy since 2017, this was our first deep dive into Sal's story. The Town Hall offered a wealth of insights about Sal's journey, vision, and Khanmigo, the AI assistant.

Sal began the Town Hall by stressing the importance of seizing every opportunity. Sal shared his struggles and challenges and how he embraces a growth mindset as an innovator and maker. We learned about his aspirations, his journey's peaks and valleys, and his mission to offer free education for all. This was more than just an opportunity created and seized; it was a journey that sparked a wave of inspiration for our students.

Upon discovering what a Brickie is, Sal expressed his wish to become one. We anticipate seeing him in Brickie gear soon! This is merely the beginning of our shared adventures with Sal Khan as an honorary Brickie. His message about creating opportunity and serving others is truly inspirational. We were honored by this event and aspire to have an impact on others just like Sal Khan! All my life I want to be a Brickie! Work! Work! Work!

Being Excellent on Purpose is our pursuit!