

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Students at Circleville High School start classes at 7:40 in the morning. But more than two dozen students chose to get to school 40 minutes early on a recent Thursday to attend an introductory meeting for the school's new Rotary Interact club.



Interact, under the Rotary International umbrella, is a service club for students ages 12-18.

Through the Sunrise Rotary club, junior Oscar Knece took part in the Rotary Youth Exchange his sophomore year and met a student from Brazil who had started an Interact club at his school.

When Oscar returned from Turkey in the spring of 2019, he gave a presentation to the Sunrise club and proposed starting an Interact club at CHS. Allen Helber, president of the Sunrise club, supported the idea and suggested Oscar also work with a noon Rotary club member.

The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self" and Oscar's goals already exemplify that he's taken the motto to heart.

"I'd like this club to be an environment where everybody can share his or her ideas," Oscar said.

At the introductory meeting Jan. 30, Oscar asked the nearly 30 students in attendance to return to the Feb. 20 meeting in the Circleville High School Alumni Room with ideas for community projects that the new club could do.

One idea he hopes to nurture is a summer festival, hosted in partnership with local businesses. "There would be an admission fee and the proceeds would go toward a charity," Oscar said.

Oscar has embraced his leadership role by en-



Adam Cunningham, top left, Alyssa Heft and Ben Mogan are working with Oscar Knece to start the Interact club.

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Oscar Knece spoke to fellow students last month about his goal to start a Rotary Interact club at Circleville High School. Oscar asked them to bring ideas to the Feb. 20 meeting.

couraging three of his classmates to help him: Adam Cunningham, Alyssa Heft and Ben Mogan.

None of his friends knew much about Rotary International but all were won over by Oscar's enthusiasm for community service.

"I want to see the full extent we can take this to. I want to see the full impact we can have. I want to see what impact we can have around the world, whether it's small or big," Ben said.

Alyssa is confident the club is already on the right path.

"I was really excited at the first meeting seeing everybody there and I feel like we're going to have a project this year and I think it's going to be really good."



Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.

