

Subject: GLBTQ Online High School Update

Date: Friday, June 12, 2009 12:49 PM

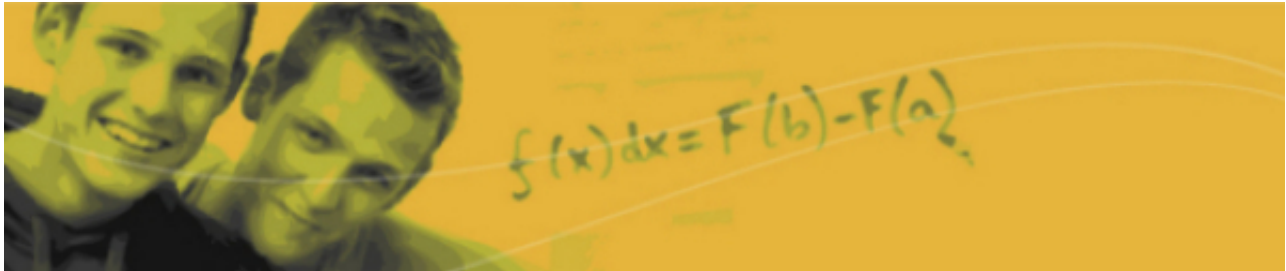
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Conversation: GLBTQ Online High School Update

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Making it a reality

Last time I wrote a piece for the GLBTQ Online High School's newsletter, I detailed the pervasive, sometimes violent, sexuality- and gender-based harassment facing many youth. My account highlighted some truly unfortunate incidents that ended in early deaths, including those of some students who didn't necessarily identify with "g", "l", "b", "t", or "q" (here: "questioning"). This time, I'm writing about possibilities for all such young people—whether specifically g/l/b/t/q-identified or not, or simply perceived to be so—and how GLBTQ Online High School can help make those possibilities into reality.

I'm sure there are many folks out there who, like myself, got through high school just fine, even having disclosed their feelings to others, with minimal harassment or social marginalization. However, this does not excuse the fact that people with same-sex attractions and/or gender-variant behaviors are still largely ignored in most American curricula. Personally, I know I benefited from the few affirming mentions here and there at my own school, and teachers who were supportive of my identity. In this respect, though, I know my privileged experience is rather unique. As would be expected of any fine academic institution, GLBTQ Online High School will provide first-rate courses for



Updates from the Executive Director

The big news, as c.j. mentioned, is that we're now officially a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization! We are now accepting donations via Facebook as well as our website,

<http://www.glbtqonlinehighschool.com>

or via check to:

GLBTQ Online High School

540 Dorland Road S.

Maplewood, MN 55119

Look for our new website in the next week or two! We're very excited about the way the new website will present the school!

We've received several thousand dollars worth of donations recently! These donations will go to a downpayment on our learning management system and for scholarships. We need everyone's help to keep the momentum going!

its students, primarily through curriculum donations from FYI Online and the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE), includes Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These courses will include the full array of subjects one would expect of any college-preparatory school, taught by highly qualified teachers who will affirm the identities of their students, as deserving of a quality education like any other young people.

While representing GLBTQ Online High School with another Advisory Board member at Capital Trans Pride the other day in Washington, DC, I heard a few individuals express concerns about students sitting in front of a computer all the time, worrying that this would only further isolate youth who are already marginalized so often. However, as a core value of GLBTQ Online High School, we are working to help students develop socially as well. We are currently in the process of forming partnerships with various community and youth organizations, so that students will have resources and social outlets available to them. (Likewise, if anyone reading this knows of any community and youth organizations we should talk to, please let us know! You can find our contact information on our website.) This goes beyond the scope of many of the existing virtual high school programs; we are committed to giving our students the most fulfilling high school experience possible.

Right now, we are in need of funding to make GLBTQ Online High School a reality. We have received applications from several potential students and talked with many more who wish to attend our school. However, most of them are not able to pay the tuition themselves. We would love to be able to offer them scholarships, but to do that we need help from the entire community. If we can get the support we need, we will be able to provide a number of youth with the opportunity to not only survive high school, but excel academically and thrive socially. Additionally, we now have official 501(c)3 status, retroactive to our founding date in November of 2008.

So once again, I ask you to dedicate yourself to GLBTQ Online High School in whatever way(s) you can. Talk about us to potential staff members and encourage them to apply. Talk to students and

Thanks!

David Glick

parents, and suggest us to them or someone they know. Solicit donors or donate yourself. Link to us from your own website. Join our "Cause" on Facebook. Ask us if you're not sure how to get started with any of these actions—we'll help you. Thanks for doing whatever you can to help make the possibilities of GLBTQ Online High School a reality.

Looking forward while keeping the past in mind,

c.j. rock
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