2027 Essay Questions

Grades 4-5:

450 word minimum, 500 word maximum

- Teachers help us grow in many ways. Think about a teacher, coach, family member, or mentor who taught you something important. Describe what you learned and explain how you could use that lesson to help another person. How can sharing what you've learned make your community stronger?
- Imagine you've been asked to give a "Book Talk" to your classmates to encourage them to read a book that you really love. In essay format, write your speech. Be sure to include the title of the book, why you would recommend the book and what lesson(s) could be learned from the story.

Grades 6-8:

450 word minimum, 500 word maximum

- People often think about leaving a legacy later in life, but our actions today shape how others remember us. What kind of legacy do you want to begin building now? Explain how education, service, and paying it forward can help you leave a positive impact on your school and community.
- Leadership is not only about being in charge—it's also about helping others succeed. Describe a time when you demonstrated leadership by serving someone else. What qualities do you believe make an effective leader?

Grades 9-11:

650 word minimum, 750 word maximum

- Many works of art, music, literature, scientific discoveries, and innovations can shape the way we view ourselves and the world around us. Write an essay about one such work or idea that had a meaningful impact on your thinking and discuss how it influenced your outlook.
- "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" – Wayne Gretzky
  Tell a story about a time you took a shot at something. In your story, include how this experience impacted your life (positively or negatively) and share what came out of the experience.