

GMS launches ‘school pride’ Legacy Jacket program

By Kayla Thomas Engle
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After nearly a year of planning, Georgetown Middle School (GMS) and GMS Youth Service Center awarded their first-ever Legacy Jackets, starting their new school pride initiative. Eighth graders Grayson Eversole and Jesse Brumagen each received Legacy Jackets at the school-wide house meeting March 21, said GMS Counselor Brittany Rodman, just before spring break. Eversole and Brumagen were selected for their exemplary demonstration of each category in Scott County Schools’ Profile of a Learner, Rodman said. They showed effective and engaged communication; respectful and accountable collaboration; resilient and creative problem solving; empathetic and compassionate citizenship; curious and adaptable learning; and confident and responsible leadership. “You’ve shown excellence in each of those categories throughout your tenure here at Georgetown Middle School (to receive a jacket),” she said. “They were nominated by a teacher, so that a staff member recognized excellence and were able to

note examples. ... I like to remind staff that one thing that you might be holding onto that they did when they were in sixth grade—we’re humans here, and this is about learning and growing.” An unexpected response from the student body caught administration off-guard when the young men received their jackets, said GMS Principal Shane Pickerill. “The whole school started chanting these kids’ names when they got the jackets,” Pickerill said. “I could see some middle schoolers being like, ‘Why not me? Why wasn’t it me?’ But no.” Some examples of Eversole’s demonstrations of the Profile included his time in the “Alice in Wonderland” performance, making him a great communicator and collaborator, she said. Two teachers worked together to nominate Brumagen to help provide examples for the staff to deliberate. “When students are nominated, we send it out to the staff,” Rodman said. “To get a jacket, they have to get a unanimous ‘yes’ vote from the staff.” “It’s a school-wide effort, a school-wide buy-in,” Pickerill said. “It’s not like we’re coming



PHOTO COURTESY OF GMS FACEBOOK
GMS eighth graders Jesse Brumagen (left) and Grayson Eversole (right) sport their new Legacy Jackets celebrating their excellence in learning, leading, citizenship, collaboration, communication and problem solving.

in my office and putting these names out there. It’s a school-wide involvement.” GMS notifies the parents of the nominations so that they can come be part of the celebration with their student, Rod-

man said. Nominations are open year-round, and GMS plans to award Legacy Jackets regularly at biweekly school-wide house meetings, she said. Though they have a backstock of 27 jackets

through the Driving Possibilities grant, those will eventually run out and require additional funding and, ideally, community backing. “My goal is to also get some community sponsors. ... I think that could be really cool to get our community involved with what we’re doing here,” she said. “I would love for the community to get involved and be a monthly sponsor. ... That’s dream-level stuff.” The sponsors could potentially send representatives to join the celebration, as well, Pickerill said. “All this, of course, is the career readiness skills,” Pickerill said. “We’re trying to prepare better citizens. If a community member, if a business partner does want to get involved, I would think they would want to not just financially provide but also come and be a part of it.” Prospective sponsors can contact brittany.rodman@scott.kyschools.us or shane.pickerill@scott.kyschools.us to participate. Other goals for the program are to nail down an exact process, provide jackets for former GMS Buffaloes, and involve the teachers who nominated the students, Rodman said. Eversole and Brumagen were re-

jacketed by their nominators Friday after press time. Legacy Jackets came from the Ron Clark Academy (RCA), a non-profit “demonstration” school in Atlanta that shares expertise with teachers all over the country, according to the RCA website. RCA hands out jackets that are a “symbol of prestige,” Rodman said. “We started brainstorming about it at the end of last school year,” she said. “We’ve just been, as a school, working on the culture here and trying to instill a sense of pride in students that go here. ... When the world sees someone walking around with that Legacy Jacket, I want them to know that’s like the cream of the crop at Georgetown Middle.” Even for those who don’t receive a Legacy Jacket in their tenure at GMS, Rodman said, they can still be part of the pride and celebration of the positive GMS legacy with their peers. “I think there’s something to strive for, and then I think there’s something to celebrate,” she said. “There’s always a benefit in celebrating with the person next to you. ... I think that’s just building that sense of empathy that we want in the next generation.”

Worship night to be held in John L. Hill Chapel Tuesday

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“Experience His presence” in John L. Hill Chapel Tuesday, April 15 with worship, messages and prayer at 7 p.m. Silas Emongo, a Georgetown College graduate, felt it in his spirit to bring a night of worship to Georgetown College, he said. “This is something that was laid upon my heart for quite some time now,” Emongo said. “It actually started toward the end of 2024. I continued to have dreams and visions. I kept envisioning to host a worship night. It was always in the chapel. Every time I envisioned it I felt a calling to do so.” The outpouring at Asbury University, which lasted two weeks in February 2023, and events at other universities inspired Emongo, he said. “I felt that Georgetown was lacking, maybe,” Emongo said. “I’ve been here almost my whole life and I haven’t heard of anything like this.” Working with the Rev. Dr. Bryan Langlands, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Robbi Barber and others across Georgetown’s campus, Emongo began putting together resources to bring “Experience His Presence” worship night to life, he said. “I came to them with a plan and they felt that this was also necessary,” Emongo said. Langlands serves as campus minister and assistant vice president for student life at Georgetown College. “I am always thrilled when alumni express a desire to be involved and remain connected with the college,” Langlands said. “When

(Barber) told me about the vision that God had given Silas, and the passion and inspiration, I was really excited.” The college holds a tradition of a night chapel service one Tuesday a semester outside of the regularly scheduled morning chapels, he said. The night services are held during “Holy Week” for the college. “Part of promoting holistic wellness is, in student life, we talk about the nine dimensions of wellness a lot,” Langlands said. “The spiritual dimension is one of those dimensions—a very important one.” Langlands felt Emongo’s plan for a worship night fell in line with the idea of Holy Week, he said. The community is invited to attend the worship night, Emongo and Langlands said.

“All are welcome to join us that night regardless of your faith background,” Emongo said. “Whether or not you’ve already accepted Christ or you are exploring your faith, this night is for you.” To help only one individual is Emongo’s goal, he said. Lauren Bixler and Joshua Owen, two Asbury students, will share their outpouring experience, Emongo said. Director of Student Engagement Monique Woodson and Assistant Athletic Director Keith Hackett II will also share messages. Emongo hopes events like this grow to be a regular thing, he said. Georgetown College Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Delight Ministries, Common Ground Ministries, the Newman Center, and area pastors are a part of Experience His Presence worship night, Emongo and Langlands said.

If you go

Worship Night will be held in the John L. Hill Chapel at Georgetown College starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15.

Georgetown Community Hospital publishes 2024 community benefit report

Special to the News-Graphic

Georgetown Community Hospital (GCH) today published its community benefit report for the 2024 calendar year. This annual report outlines the various ways the hospital is working to support the health and economic vitality of Georgetown, Kentucky, as part of its mission of making communities healthier®. “For more than 25 years, Georgetown Community Hospital has been proud to call Scott County our home, and as a leader in our community, we are committed to providing high-quality care close to home, investing in our region’s overall well-being and making a positive impact on those we serve,” said Cliff Wilson, Life-point Central Kentucky Market President and chief executive officer (CEO) of Georgetown Community Hospital. “This year’s report underscores our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality care possible – both inside and outside our hospital walls.” Georgetown Community Hospital’s 2024 community benefit report highlights its

continued efforts to meet the growing healthcare needs of its community through welcoming new providers, adding and expanding service lines and continually invest-

ing in its facilities and healthcare technology. For example, in 2024, GCH added 9 employed providers in cardiology, urology, express care and more; and made nearly than \$8.9 million in capital improvements, including the da Vinci V robot, surgical stretchers, Parkview Medical Office Building and more. Additionally, Georgetown Community Hospital made a donation of nearly than \$25.2 million in health services to those in need, demonstrating its continuous commitment to ensuring

everyone has access to care, regardless of their ability to pay. GCH is also devoted to creating environments where providers want to practice and employees

want to work. In 2024, the hospital distributed more than \$56,532,229 in salaries, wages and benefits for its approximately 660 employees, while contributing more than \$113,662 in professional development and tuition assistance so all its employees can have the opportunity to learn, grow and improve the care they provide their patients. Last year, the organization paid \$10,629,089 in local and state taxes, while also continuing its support of local activities and organizations committed to serving

the region, including the American Heart Association, Finley Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Maggie’s Light Foundation, The Amen House, The Gathering Place and

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Cliff Wilson
Georgetown Community Hospital CEO

many more. “We feel fortunate to call Georgetown and Scott County our home, and we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of all those who entrust us with their care. We are also thankful for the hard work and dedication of our providers, employees and volunteers who make it all possible,” said Wilson. “As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to honoring our legacy while further enhancing the many ways we serve our neighbors and communities.”

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