

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



never
GIVING
up

REAGAN *CLASS*, 11

After a home invasion July 7, 2015, incoming freshman Reagan Class was left unconscious in the hospital with multiple gunshot wounds, one to the head. After waking up a month later, Class remained in the hospital for the next two months before beginning rehabilitation, where she endured six months of intense physical therapy to relearn everyday tasks such as eating, walking and talking.

"Honestly, I just think that the Lord had a plan for me, and he was not going to have me die that day," said junior Reagan Class.

Her faith, along with family and friends, is what kept her motivated through the long recovery process. One of the first people to visit her in the hospital was close friend junior Ava Hageman.

"A lot of people said that she wouldn't survive, and now, she can walk and talk and do everything that we can," said Hageman. "I'm so happy for her."

Class also had the support of her community as she recovered. The phrase "Fight with Class" was

printed on thousands of t-shirts and sold to raise money for the Class family. At the first home football game of the season, the stadium was a sea of teal, as everyone was encouraged to wear their "Fight with Class" shirts.

"It makes me feel really happy that there's people out there that are supporting me," said Class.

"Especially when I'm looking back in the yearbook at the picture from the

football game, and I just see all those teal shirts."

Almost three years later, with her attacker still not captured, all Class hoped for was justice.

"I would like

everybody to watch that again and get a fresh picture in their mind of the sketch of the person and have everybody looking around for him."

Despite her setbacks, Class never lost her happy spirit, according to Hageman.

"She acts like how she used to be before the incident," said Hageman. "She's always happy and cheery whenever I see her -- always smiling."

*Written by Grace Duddy
Photos by Grace Duddy*



GIVING
his all

ZACHERY *ELAM*, 12

With two wrestling state championships under his belt, senior Zachery Elam has also earned a national wrestling title, won a football state championship and made the football first team all-district by second semester of his senior year.

Elam has been involved in football, wrestling and choir for all four years of high school. With his schedule, he practices several hours day, six to seven days a week.

"I like to push my body past its limits and be in the best psychological shape I can be in," said Elam.

Along with his individual and team wrestling state title that he earned at the end of his junior year, Elam also led his team in football to another state win, playing both sides of the line. With only 10 seconds left on the clock, Elam scored a touchdown, bringing his team within one point. They decided to go for a two-point conversion to win the game. With a successful catch from senior wide receiver James Benbow, the team sealed the victory with final score of 36-35 over Pattonville High

School.

"Zach has always had a great work ethic, and it's awesome to see it paying off for him," said senior offensive lineman and long-time friend Daniel Mangold.

Not only is Elam involved in wrestling, football, and choir, he was also enrolled in college level courses such as College Algebra, College English and AP Psychology.

"I always said that students that are involved in school, sports, and activities have to be better at managing their time," said AP Psychology teacher Scott Anderson.

"He is good at managing his time, getting his work done and staying on top of things."

Many students have difficulty juggling classes, activities and sports, but Elam manages to do it all. At the annual fall signing ceremony on Nov. 8, Elam revealed that he was committing to wrestle for the University of Missouri.

"I want to be the best version of myself until I see the results I want," said Elam.

Written by Caroline Bonacorso

Students Share Their Definitions of Giving

GIVING
thanks



GHADA *MOUSA*, 12

It is expected of a teacher to mentor, assist and be an overall good role model. However, for senior Ghada Mousa, English Language Learner teacher Travis Mauzey gave so much more.

After Iraqi-native Mousa moved from Park Hill High School her sophomore year, she had Mauzey as an ELL teacher. Unlike most teachers, who specialize in one area, ELL instructors must be knowledgeable in all subject areas. All of Mauzey's students were at different levels of study, but that didn't stop Mauzey from helping.

"Sometimes he won't know things, and he will sit down with you to search things, take notes with us and try to teach it in his own way to help us learn better," said Mousa.

Mauzey's influence doesn't stop with schoolwork. He helped them with family matters and other situations outside of school.

"Just knowing those kids on a personal level and making a little bit of time just to listen goes a long way," said Mauzey. "Sometimes all

people need is someone to listen."

Because Mousa is an immigrant, she faced circumstances different than most. Most recently, her mother moved back to their home country, which she struggled coping with. She said that Mauzey was like her therapist, always ready to listen.

"His life is all about us; we're like his kids," said Mousa.

"HIS LIFE IS ALL ABOUT US; WE'RE LIKE HIS KIDS."

These students have also given Mauzey a new perspective on life. Teaching ELL, he emphasizes the importance of making connections as

opposed to focusing on content.

"I'm not really educating kids to graduate high school, I'm educating kids to care and have passion about things," said Mauzey.

Mauzey certainly gave much more to his students than required.

"I really wish we could have more people like him, who can positively influence everybody," said Mousa.

Written by Haley Anne Mahusay

GIVING
back



BRAYDEN *BASCH*, 12

One person's illness affects many people, especially their friends and family. Senior Brayden Basch wanted to find a way to give back to those loved ones in a unique way. In 2017, Basch had the opportunity to get involved in a charity known as Jill's Hope.

Jill's Hope is a nonprofit organization run through Basch's mom's Pilates studio. Family friend of Basch and founder Jill Heckman started the charity to help families cope with loved ones who have cancer because she saw

how it affected her own family when she had breast cancer.

"I was originally involved because I would help in the setup of fundraisers," said Basch.

But during the summer of 2017, Heckman's health started to decline. Basch was encouraged to spend more time with her son Trey to help him cope.

"The hope is to give all kids within Jill's Hope an older person to look up to and give them a distraction from what's going on

in their lives," said Basch.

Once school started in August, Basch pitched the idea to National Honor Society to get more volunteers, and NHS president senior Juliann Leak, along with a few others, also became involved with Jill's Hope.

"It makes me feel good that I can provide them with that escape, because many don't have that

escape when they're in that situation," said Leak.

Jill's Hope has meetings where cancer patients get together to talk.

Basch and other

members go to hang out with their children during the meetings.

"It's definitely most rewarding when you get to go out and have fun with the kid so they stop thinking about all that other stuff," said Basch.

Heckman passed away in 2017. However, her charity still continues with Basch and many others to bring the same support to many other families struggling with the same situation.

Written by Caroline Bonacorso