

Fly, Superman

You will forever be in our hearts



Landon Stuckey is our Superman.

Landon lived a life of happiness and joy despite the struggles that life handed him. There was not one time that you would see Landon with a frown on his face. He made sure to live positively in every moment.

No matter if you just heard some of Landon's stories from others or were one of his lifelong best friends, you would know that this young man loved everyone no matter what his or her last name was or how much money was in his or her piggy bank.

His smile was as wide as his heart. When Landon was in elementary school, he won the Jefferson Award, which is given out to people in the community who dedicate their lives to putting others first and truly making a difference in the lives of those around them.

If Stuckey was working on his



Trey Skocy
Sports Editor

drafting project with his best friend, hanging out around town with his buddies for the night or even running across the soccer field for a loose ball, he always was having the most fun he could possibly have. His zest for life was contagious.

He did what no other person at Mattoon High School ever did; he brought all of us together. From the most famous kids to the ones who go unrecognized and just come and go through the doors of MHS every day.

Landon brought all these kids together and broke down the walls that have been standing for way too

long. He would want us all to love each other just like Superman loved and protected every single person in the world.

There are two important life lessons that we can all learn from Landon by the way he chose to live. First: be a giving and kind person to all. Second: live every minute of your life with a smile, for the gift of living a healthy life is nothing Stuckey took lightly.

Landon battled childhood cancer. For those of us who knew him all through grade school, we remember the fear of wondering if he would survive his next round of chemo or if he would be returning to school at all. But the days would come that he would return with his little frame, bald head and million-dollar smile, and we all would breathe a sigh of relief to have him back. Back then, he was a super kid and a Superman in the making.

The original Superman inspired

thousands of people in the world by the way he lived his life, and though Landon didn't inspire as many people as the original Superman, he certainly impacted every person he had the chance to meet.

Stuckey's absence at MHS is felt in different ways for every single person who knew him. For some, it might be his absence MHS, Mr. Brown's room, the soccer field or in class. Even just hearing that friendly "hello" in the hallway before and after school is missed. The students here miss him and are upset.

It's okay to be upset and angry and confused at first, but in time, it is important to not continue to be sad that his life is over but grateful and happy that you had the chance to know someone like Landon Stuckey. It is time to become your own "superperson," as Landon would want you to be.

Landon Stuckey was truly super and is flying high above us now.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTIE EATON

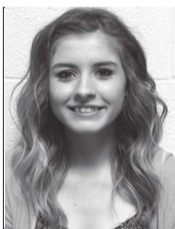
The Superman flag flies high at MHS in remembrance of Landon Stuckey.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLEE NOTTMEYER

At the memorial service held for Landon Stuckey, many students and family members lifted balloons in his honor.

Students underappreciate education



Jenna Butler
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Copy Editor

Not every student who is given the opportunity to be a part of a great school with a solid education takes advantage of it. Some students choose to take it for granted instead. Being able to maintain the variety of skills in different subjects is a privilege that will advance one's knowledge and will lead to a more successful future. This privilege may be offered to students, but it's not just handed over; students have to work for it as well. Those who choose to take their education for granted may only be hurting themselves in the long-run.

It's easy for one who takes his education for granted to say it is his choice, but it's not reasonable enough to become careless about education. Some students claim their teachers overload them with too much work at once, and it stresses them out to a point where they want to give up. So, these cas-

es aren't necessarily refusing to take advantage of this privilege but rather having trouble balancing school's responsibilities.

However, there are some students who do not try or put little effort into their education in general. These students may see it as unhelpful or a waste of time, and even when teachers try to motivate these students to push them to do their best, the students take it in one ear and out the other.

Possibly, this is because they don't realize the later impact it will have on their future or they just don't comprehend it in general and get frustrated with trying. No matter the reason for taking their education for granted, the lack of knowledge and lack of involvement in the classrooms and homework assigned can result in a poorly educated future.

As for those students who do take their education for advantage of their education, they get offered great opportunities, jobs and even scholarships. Here, at Mattoon High School, dual-credit classes and a variety of honors classes are offered. Working hard is going to pay off in the long-run, no matter the stress it may cause. College is

going to be stressful. Life is going to be stressful. Nothing gets handed to you and nothing is ever easy. Therefore, one shouldn't think he has nothing to worry about. If you slack off, you're going to regret it because it won't help you prepare in the future.

In other countries though, education doesn't come free or cheap. Students have to work for an education while others get it so easy in America. One complains of having to come to school and how much he hates it, but there are some people around the world who don't even have this opportunity and wish for it. Therefore, students who do get this privilege should consider themselves lucky instead of tortured. There are people out there who would be grateful to be in the shoes of a well-educated student.

Furthermore, it bases off the maturity level of some students. They don't realize how much effort and time teachers put forth to make sure kids are well-educated. They basically dedicate their life, to making sure students succeed to the best of their abilities. Students should be more appreciative for the dedication of the teachers. Teachers are only trying to help and whether one

accepts the help or not will determine his later life. One can't be dependent on the little he learns from slacking off; it doesn't go far. Some students need to become more independent and be mature about their education.

Overall, whether one is to decide to take advantage of his education or not is completely up to that student, but the results or consequences of his decision should be carefully considered.

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