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HCS students 'sign' on to teacher education initiative

By ANDREW HARP THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE
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Central Hardin High School students Gage Hobbs, Kimberly Yates, Sydney Ray, Megan Smith and Jeremiah Diaz take a photo together Wednesday after their signing event. These students are committing to become teachers and work for Hardin County Schools for three years after graduation. In return, the district pays for a portion of their college education.

ANDREW HARP/The News-Enterprise

In an ceremony traditionally reserved for student athletes, Hardin County Schools students have penned their commitment to their future career.

The students signed letters of intent on becoming educators and return to their home district to begin their careers.

A total of nine Central Hardin High School students signed Wednesday their letter of intent to attend the college of their choice.

These students, along with two North Hardin High School students and six John Hardin High School students, are a part of Educators Rising, which is for students seeking to become teachers.

This group of students is the first to take advantage of a new teacher education initiative where the school system will provide money to high school graduates who are admitted to a post-secondary teacher education program in Kentucky.

In return, HCS and the graduate enter a contractual agreement where the student returns to work in HCS for at least three years.

Chase Cruse, CHHS assistant principal and advisor of the club, celebrated with the students who decided to take advantage of this new incentive.

“They’re great students. They’re going to become fantastic teachers,” he said. “The district realized that, and this provides a win-win situation for both of us.”

Jeremiah Diaz and Gage Hobbs were two of those CHHS students. Diaz will be attending Western Kentucky University to become a mathematics teacher, and Hobbs will be attending the University of Kentucky to become a business teacher.

“I love coming back to Hardin County Schools, because that’s where I’ve been my whole life,” Hobbs said.

Diaz said it was appealing to be able to have the security of a job once he finished college.

Hobbs said he decided to become a teacher after seeing the example that Cruse set as a teacher himself.

“I think it’s honestly just a really healthy environment that I’d like to stay in for the rest of my life,” Diaz said about working as a teacher.

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