



Subscribers Like *You*
Make the Difference

New Subscribers pay only \$39 for 12 months of local news delivered weekly to your mailbox! Ask about our Senior Citizen's Discount!

Call 901.476.7116



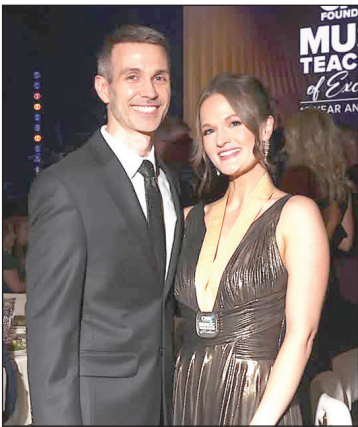
HOUSTON HIGH CHOIR TEACHER NAMED CMA FOUNDATION MUSIC TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE

Kinsey Healy was one of only 30 music educators nationwide selected for the 2026 honor, recognizing her dedication to music education and the students who inspire her work.

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — For Kinsey Healy, being named a 2026 CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence was an opportunity to celebrate not only her work as a music educator but also the students who make that work so meaningful.

Healy, a choir teacher at Houston High School, was one of just 30 music educators across the nation selected for the prestigious recognition. The honor included a stipend for her choir classroom, tailored professional development and an invitation to an awards ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee.

In reflecting on the experience, Healy shared her gratitude for the recognition and for the CMA Foundation's commitment to music education.



Houston High School choir teacher Kinsey Healy was named a 2026 CMA Foundation Music Teacher of Excellence, one of just 30 music educators nationwide to receive the honor. Healy celebrated the recognition as a reflection of her students and the Houston High choir community, crediting them as the heart of her work. The honor included classroom funding, professional development and an invitation to an awards ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee.

Photos courtesy of Houston High Choirs
"Feeling incredibly grateful to

See Healy, page 8



Antonio Scott returned to his alma mater with a message for the next generation of Mustangs "embrace opportunities, trust the people who guide you and never stop dreaming bigger." (Courtesy GMSD)

HOUSTON HIGH ALUMNUS RETURNS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS TO DREAM BIGGER

Staff Report

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — Ten years after walking the halls of Houston High School as a student, Antonio Scott returned to his alma mater with a message for the next generation of Mustangs: embrace opportunities, trust the people who guide you and never stop dreaming bigger.

Scott, a 2016 Houston High graduate, spoke with students from the school's Honors Academy and Leadership Academy last week in the Traverse Library, sharing how the experiences he gained in high school helped shape a career that has taken him from college leadership and graduate study to politics and higher education.

"It was extremely full circle," Scott said. "Ten years ago, I was sitting where they were sitting. I didn't know what job I would have, what city I'd live in or every room that I'd walk into professionally."

Scott's journey is a reminder that students do not need to have every detail of their futures figured out to begin building meaningful careers. Sometimes, the most important steps come from saying yes to opportunities, exploring new interests and listening to mentors along the way.

After graduating from Houston High in 2016, Scott attended the University of Memphis, where his plans to pursue journalism began to change. Through involvement in student government and work in the university president's office, he discovered a passion for student engagement and higher education.

Those experiences led him to graduate study at the University of Maryland, followed by work in politics and, ultimately, a return to education. Scott now serves as coordinator of the Weil Scholars Program at the University of Memphis, helping support the next generation of students as they



Antonio Scott addresses a group of students during his visit to Houston High School.

Courtesy GMSD

pursue their academic and professional goals.

His return to Houston was especially meaningful because several educators who influenced his own development were part of the experience. Dr. Simone, who worked with Scott through the Houston Honors Academy, helped connect him with opportunities in speech and debate and other programs that expanded his interests and skills.

Scott also revisited his senior capstone project, which focused on Germantown Forward 2030, giving current students a glimpse of how projects and experiences from high school can connect to broader community interests and future career paths.

The visit followed Scott's 10-year class reunion during Houston High's Homecoming weekend, adding another layer of nostalgia

to his return. While much had changed since his graduation, one difference did not escape his attention.

"I am a little salty that my locker is no longer there," he joked.

Beneath the humor was a larger reflection on the passage of time and the possibilities that can emerge over a decade. Scott returned not simply to reminisce about his years as a Mustang, but to help students recognize the potential in their own experiences and the opportunities still ahead of them.

His message challenged students to look beyond the limits they may place on themselves and to approach the future with ambition and confidence.

"The sky is not your limit. It is your view," Scott told students.

See Scott, page 8



Leadership Germantown is accepting nominations for the Jo Reed Community Service Award, which honors individuals who exemplify selfless service, humility and dedication to the Germantown community. Established in 1996 in memory of Jo Reed, a longtime community volunteer known for her quiet, cheerful service, the award recognizes those who make a difference behind the scenes without seeking recognition. Nominations and supporting materials are due Wednesday, Oct. 21. Pictured above is a previous recipient of the Jo Reed award.

Photo: City of Germantown

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 JO REED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Deadline to nominate a community volunteer is Oct. 21

GERMANTOWN, Tenn. — Leadership Germantown is seeking nominations for the 2026 Jo Reed Community Service Award, which recognizes a Germantown resident whose volunteer service reflects a spirit of selflessness, humility and dedication to the community.

Since 1996, the Leadership Germantown Alumni Association has sponsored the annual award. Leadership Germantown is leading this

year's effort to honor an individual who works behind the scenes to improve the community without seeking recognition.

The award is named for Jo Reed, a longtime Germantown volunteer who devoted countless hours to civic organizations, community initiatives and local government.

Reed was involved with St. George's Episcopal Church, senior citizen groups, the Germantown Performing Arts Center, Shelby County Republican Women and

See Reed, page 8

