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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunnyside student Jayzen Oppelt named a Riley Champion
Presentation will be at Sunnyside Intermediate School 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9

Jayzen Oppelt, a 12-year-old sixth-grader at Sunnyside Intermediate School, has been named a Riley Champion for Riley Children's Foundation. One of seven children in the state to serve in this role, Jayzen will be honored Thursday and share his goals for the next year as he supports Riley Children's Hospital.

The celebration honoring Jayzen will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at Sunnyside Intermediate School, 530 N. 26th St., Lafayette.

Jayzen is an active 12-year-old, a high-ability student who loves basketball. None of that seemed possible when Jayzen was born; concerned when he was unable to sit up and cried nonstop, his family knew something was not right. An MRI revealed that white matter in his brain was not fully developed. Years of intensive developmental, occupational and physical therapy have helped Jayzen overcome many hurdles. He still deals with extreme anxiety and Tourette Syndrome. But the care at Riley has been critical in helping Jayzen lead his best life. And that is the story he is ready to share.

For more on Jayzen's story, visit <https://rileykids.org/news-blog/jayzen-oppelt>.

On Thursday, Jayzen will receive a certificate, and Sunnyside will be presented with a banner announcing they have a Riley Champion. As an ambassador for Riley, each champion commits to giving back in some way. Jayzen has chosen to sponsor an online fundraiser, with the goal of raising \$5,000 for Riley.

For more information, or to arrange for interviews or photos, contact Cindy Gerlach, LSC Director of Communications, at cgerlach@lsc.k12.in.us, 765-771-6043