

**SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING
3rd, 4th, and 5th GRADES FOR FIRST TIME IN SY20-21**

All students entering GMC Prep 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades for the first time in SY20-21 must schedule an appointment with the GMC Bookstore to try on and pick up uniform items. Please contact the Bookstore at (478) 387- 4909 or (478) 387- 4810 or bookstore@gmc.edu

Uniform fittings will occur during the weeks of June 15 and June 22.

The Bookstore is located on the ground floor of the Old Capitol Building (see campus map for reference) with the entry doors on the South side. Parents may visit the Bookstore without students, but students are encouraged to attend the appointment for sizing purposes. We ask that only one adult accompany students to the Bookstore.

The GMC Elementary Uniform issue from the GMC Bookstore will include the following items at no cost to parents:

- 4 of the required GMC short sleeve Polo shirts embroidered with GMC Prep logo (available for pick up at time of appointment)
- the required GMC Prep black fleece jacket embroidered with the GMC logo and the student's last name (available for try-on during appointment with order placed in July)
- 1 GMC Prep spirit t-shirt (Bookstore Staff will take order for size at appointment with shirts ordered afterwards and delivered in August.)

Due to the generosity of the late Honorable W.J. (Bill) Usery, Jr., the Usery Legacy Fund provides an initial uniform issue at no cost to all new Prep School students. This wonderful gift to our students provides a significant savings for our families! The Usery Legacy Fund includes the following:

**a gift
to students**

from

The Honorable
W. J. (BILL) USERY, JR.
LEGACY FUND

*Why did it matter to Mr. Usery
that your child have uniform assistance?
Read his story below ...*



W. J. (BILL) USERY, JR. (HS'40)
1923 – 2016

Born in 1923 amidst uncertain economic and political times, it was difficult for a boy from humble beginnings to envision even a comfortable future — much less a future that would include five presidential appointments. But his mother believed in the potential America held for her son.

With a plan that differed from her husband's — who wanted his son to enter the workforce after the seventh grade — Effie Mae Usery promised that if he kept his grades up, she would find a way to send him to Georgia Military College.

For a young Bill, this meant shedding the stigma that came with living near what was then referred to as the state lunatic asylum, and having parents that worked at Central State Hospital. The uniform, he said, served as an equalizer and granted him access to anywhere he wanted to go. "The uniform let me go downtown. The uniform let me go over to GSCW (Georgia State College for Women). It opened up a whole new life for me."

For Effie Mae, the uniform meant she'd put her son on the path to greatness. But unable to afford new uniforms, she bought them used, patched the pants

and left her job as a practical nurse to work in the hospital's laundry. This way, she could insure that her son had a clean, pressed uniform to wear to school each day.

At one point, when the uniform's patches were many, Effie Mae took Bill to the local bank and asked for a \$25 loan. The banker denied the loan, admonishing her to teach her son to save money, not borrow it.

"Mr. Usery would never forget the shame he felt that day," said Rev. Stephanie Caldwell, who delivered a eulogy at his funeral. "He would never forget the pain of watching his mother walk out of that bank, with her head held high and tears streaming down her face. True to form, he used a difficult experience to forge the kind of mettle that makes a man great. It instilled a drive to succeed, a longing to make amends and make his mother's life better, and lifelong desire to make the lives of other poor and disaffected people better."

That was Effie Mae's gift to her son: instilling compassion, fairness, humor and honesty — the qualities he would bring to the table throughout his storied life.