



#GirlPower: 'Because she did, I can'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. -

The 670 students at Olmsted Academy South have a motto -- "Be brave."

This week, the only all-girls public middle school in Kentucky learned about influential women who are making a difference in the world.

The girls put on a show called 'Because she did, I can.' A professional composer, Nan Avant, helped create the music, while many girls prepared presentations on influential women from the past and present.



"Dr. Patricia Bath, she is the first African-American female to complete a residency in ophthalmology," said Helen Yeitowon, a sixth-grader.

"Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in the U.S. to get a medical degree, and I find it fascinating on how she got into her school, an all-male school actually," said Mariam Alzubaidi, who is also in the sixth grade.

Sara Alshimary added, "All my life I wanted to do things boys would do, but people would tell me, 'You're a girl, you can't do it.' I like soccer, I like working with my dad because he's a car dealer and car mechanic."

For her portion of the show, Alshimary chose one of her role models, Pakistani activist, Malala.

"Malala has taught me that I can do that, even if I'm a girl, I can do anything," she said.

"I chose queen Rania of Jordan because we usually think of a queen as someone fancy, doesn't want to be bothered, but really Queen Rania stood up for what she believed in," said Yaara Aleissa.

The school's principal, Angela Allen, said the girls are learning every day how to become empowered and make decisions for themselves.

She said this show is helping them realize when they grow up, they can be anything they want to be.

"I'm still young, I have a lot of things in mind. I could be a book writer. As a female, I have the power to do anything I want," said Fatima Aldernwi, an eighth-grader.

Students from 22 countries attend Olmsted Academy South. The girls speak many different languages. It became an all-girl school in 2008.

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