

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School Cooke Riney

Cooke Riney, the son of Pearl and Seth Riney, is Middlebury Union High School's first student of the week for this year. Cooke's older brother, Penn, is a junior at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and his younger sister, Ginger, is a 10th-grader at MUHS. The family resides in Cornwall with their dog, Tito, and their cat, Annie.

Cooke has thoroughly enjoyed his time at MUHS, saying that one of the things he likes best about the school is "there's something for everyone here." Cooke is a candidate for the full diploma as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, but appreciates the different pathways available for all students to find their interests.

Our Student of the Week enjoys his classes at MUHS, especially Physics with Mr. Harrington and Calculus with Mr. Comar. He mentions that they both bring "a certain kind of fun" to the classroom, and that it is clear that they like their fields and exposing students to concepts in their disciplines. Last year, Cooke was one of the two winners of the prestigious Dorey Cup, which is awarded to two juniors every year who have "attained the highest standing" in the areas of athletic ability, leadership, scholarship, and moral integrity and habits.

Cooke has accumulated multiple accolades in the areas of interscholastic sports, including being named to first team all-state in football, first team all-region in basketball, second team all-state in lacrosse, and as a "Rising Star" in both lacrosse and basketball. Cooke was a captain of the basketball team as a junior and is currently a captain of the football team.

Acting as a peer leader this year, he is helping 9th-graders join the MUHS community. Cooke is one of the coordinators of the peer leader program, having been selected by his fellow leaders to develop and implement programming in first-year advisories. Over his career at MUHS, Cooke has also participated as a student leader at the Vermont State Athletic Directors' Association conference and was selected to represent MUHS at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY).

Cooke is looking forward to the remainder of his time at MUHS. His advice to kids in younger grades is to get as involved as possible, and to remember that high school is "a great time to be yourself." After high school, Cooke is planning on attending Yale University in New Haven, Conn., where he will play football and hopes to continue his passion for physics. We wish Cooke the best of luck for the remainder of his school year and beyond.



Cooke Riney
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School Chance Koenig

Chance Koenig is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. The son of Mark Koenig and Erin Roche of Vergennes, Chance at home enjoys the company of his family's pets: a dog, a cat and a snake.

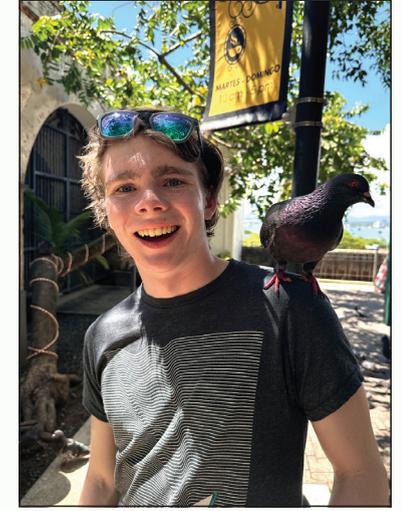
Chance is a well-known leader at VUHS, where he has embraced the school's tight-knit community. He says he values how everyone feels connected and that "there is no place where I do not feel that I belong." Among his favorite classes are AP Biology with Ms. Thompson, Band with Mr. Mann, and AP Calculus with Mrs. Kayhart. He credits Ms. Thompson as his most influential teacher, noting that her ability to build strong relationships with students made her class a supportive place for him throughout high school.

An accomplished student and leader, Chance has consistently earned Honor Roll recognition and has been selected for the All-District Band each year since freshman year playing concert tuba. He serves as captain of both the Cross Country and Track & Field teams, and was chosen for Boys State, where he was later named an alternate for Boys Nation. A dedicated Scout, he is a Life Scout in Troop 539 and is currently completing his Eagle Scout project, which involves installing a long jump pit. Chance has also contributed behind the scenes as stage manager for the Middlebury Community Players' "Morning's At Seven." He has been class president for the past three years, following his freshman year as class treasurer.

Outside of school, Chance serves as the operations director for Vergennes Parks and Recreation, and he is a member of the Vergennes Opera House Board. He is also actively involved in National Honor Society and Student Congress, and he does community service through both Scouting and NHS. For his community-based learning class, he works with students in behavioral intervention at Vergennes Union Elementary School.

In his free time, Chance enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and advocating for others. He says one of the most important lessons he's learned at VUHS is to speak up for himself and his community. He says, "You have a voice and you should not be afraid to use it. Often, people do not always know that change is the right thing to happen because they might not have your perspective. Speak up for yourself. Have agency for yourself and your community."

After graduation, Chance plans to attend college or university to study nursing. The whole school community wishes Chance Koenig all the best.



Chance Koenig
VUHS

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Cooke and
Chance!

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