

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Amelia Giroux

Amelia Giroux is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. She lives in Panton with her parents, Jen and Bryan; her siblings, Sebastian and Scarlett; and their two cats. Her sister Madelyn is a sophomore at UVM. Amelia also co-leases a horse boarded at a neighbor's barn.

At VUHS, Amelia has excelled in a wide range of subjects. She cites AP Biology with Sarah Thompson and AP Calculus with Lynn Kayhart among her favorite classes, noting how academically engaging both were. She's also loved studying German with Frau Kepes, participating in the German exchange program, and was honored with the Student Sage Award from Russell Sage College during her junior year.

Amelia is deeply involved in her school community. She's played soccer and basketball for VUHS, and outside of school she shows draft horses. A member of several student organizations, she serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society and as Secretary for the Class of 2026, helping plan events like prom and school fundraisers. Amelia is also part of the environmental Green Team, SPACE Club (a collaboration with Atria Collective), and Math Team, where she enjoys the challenge of math meets (and the cookies afterward!).

Her involvement extends beyond school as well. Amelia is active in the Vergennes LEOs Club, reading to young students in the community. She's also held summer jobs at Basin Harbor's Harbor Store and in the office at the Champlain Bridge Marina. She has taken advantage of enrichment opportunities like the Governor's Institute for Health and Medicine and represented VUHS at Girls' State, where she was elected as her town's attorney and had the opportunity to visit the Vermont Supreme Court.

In her free time, Amelia enjoys riding horses, spending time with family and friends, and traveling, with memorable trips to Mexico and Canada among her favorites.

Reflecting on her time at VUHS, Amelia says one of the most important lessons she's learned is the power of advocacy. "The most important experiences I've had are the opportunities to speak up for myself and for my class's needs," she says. "To underclassmen, don't let those moments pass by. Your voice really matters, and you can make an impact."

After graduation, Amelia plans to attend a four-year university, where she looks forward to exploring new places and becoming part of a new community. We wish Amelia all the best!



Amelia Giroux
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Mattisen Austin

Mattisen Austin, the daughter of Tammy and Bill Austin, is Middlebury Union High School's latest student of the week. Matty lives with her parents and younger brother, Parker, who is a ninth-grader at MUHS. The family resides in East Middlebury with their dog, Neila, and cat, Pumpkin.

Matty has enjoyed her time as a student at MUHS, saying that she appreciates the sense of community and the multiple different pathways available to different students. She is a candidate for the full diploma as part of the International Baccalaureate program, and as part of her studies, has taken a special interest in her biology and physics courses. She appreciated the two teachers in those courses, Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Harrington, and specifically noted that they allowed her and other students to explore areas of specific interest within the curriculum. This sort of personalization allowed Matty to develop a fuller understanding of the subjects, she said.

Matty's teachers noted specifically that she is a kind and inclusive leader in the school community. She was awarded the Clarkson University Leadership and Achievement Award during her junior year, and has also won a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), and an MUHS Community Service Award. Matty is currently a peer leader, working with ninth-graders as they settle into their places at MUHS this fall. Additionally, she is a member of the Student Coalition on Human Rights and participated in the group's service trip to Puerto Rico during her sophomore year.

Outside of school, Matty does a significant amount of volunteer work, especially as a coach with the Middlebury Figure Skating Club. She works with young figure skaters in the community throughout the fall and winter as the members prepare for the annual ice show at Middlebury College's Winter Carnival. In Matty's spare time, she participates in lacrosse and soccer at MUHS as well as in non-scholastic club settings. She has been playing these sports since she was a ninth-grader. When not toiling on schoolwork, volunteering, or playing sports, Matty enjoys spending time outside and dogsits locally.

When asked for her advice for younger students at MUHS, Matty encouraged them to "take everything one step at a time," and remarked that "perfectionism is overrated." Matty is planning on continuing her studies next year at a college somewhere in the Northeast, where she is hoping to study pre-medicine in order to eventually become a doctor. We at MUHS wish Matty the best for the rest of her senior year and the years to come.



Mattisen Austin
MUHS

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Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Congratulations, Mattisen and Amelia

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