

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Gina LeBeau

Vergennes Union High School is proud to recognize Gina LeBeau as its latest Student of the Week. Gina lives in Panton with her parents and their family dog, one of many pets she's had over the years. She also has an older sister who's currently in college. Gina says she enjoys life in Panton because it's quiet and peaceful.

As a student, Gina has discovered a love for learning — especially when she can choose classes that match her interests. One of her favorites has been Wildlife Biology, which she describes as “super fun.” She also enjoys Chorus and often spends her free time playing guitar in Ms. O'Hara's room. A lover of science, Gina appreciates being challenged by Mr. Francis, and she also fondly remembers the great discussions in Mr. Steen's AP Language and Composition class.

Gina is deeply involved in the Music Department, where she participates in Commodore Singers and finds her creative home in school musicals. She began in the ensemble of “Newsies” as a ninth-grader, took on a larger role in “Mamma Mia!” her sophomore year, and last year played her first lead as Violet Newstead in “9 to 5.” “I felt like I shared personality traits with that character,” she said. “It felt more like I was being me on stage, which was so cool.”

In addition to music, Gina is a member of the Green Team, National Honor Society, and Spring Track & Field. She states that while she's not the best on the team, she loves the supportive and fun community.

Outside of school, Gina volunteers with the Leo Club, where she enjoys giving back to the community. She also works at United Way of Addison County, helping with youth substance misuse prevention, a cause she sees as an important issue in our community.

When she's not studying or volunteering, Gina loves to hike, run, play guitar, write her own music, read, craft, bake, and spend time with friends.

Reflecting on her high school experience, Gina says one of the most valuable lessons she's learned is not to worry too much about what others think. “Other people don't care as much about how you dress or look, or what you do for fun, as you may think,” she said. “Worrying too much about what other people think may actually prevent you from finding your people.”

Looking ahead, Gina plans to attend college and major in Environmental Science, with a focus on wildlife conservation. Congratulations, Gina! We wish you continued success in the years to come.



Gina LeBeau  
VUHS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Austin Gero

Austin Gero, the son of Amber and Eric Gero, is Middlebury Union High School's latest student of the week. Austin's younger sister, Monica, is a tenth-grader at MUHS. He lives with his family and dog, Buddy, in Cornwall.

Many staff members at MUHS have glowing things to say about Austin's membership in our community. His kindness was noted by many, and he is a strong advocate for himself and others. However, his work ethic stands out the most amongst his peers. One staff member, in a nomination, exclaimed, “I know few adults with such a work ethic [as his]!”

At MUHS, Austin notes that he especially enjoys his history class with Mr. Korndoerfer. He said that Mr. Korndoerfer does a great job at making history interesting by telling stories and engaging with his students, and that he is “an easy person to talk to.” When asked about other teachers who have made a difference in his time at MUHS, Austin identified Peggy Leary and Dave Richardson as two other teachers who have been big supporters of his throughout his high school career.

When Austin is not toiling on his schoolwork, he is working on the custodial staff at MUHS. Austin has been a member of the facilities crew at the school since his freshman year, and is now working 40 hours a week on top of his academics. Austin's maturity and work ethic are clear — his grades do not suffer due to his long work hours and he is successfully able to juggle what are effectively two full-time jobs between his schoolwork and his role on the facilities crew. In what little spare time Austin has, he enjoys working on his cars and spending time with family and friends.

Over his time at MUHS, Austin has received a number of accolades, including being named as a 21st Century Award recipient by the mathematics department in both his sophomore and junior years. Austin was an honorable mention for the PE/Health departmental award as a junior and was also a recipient of the William Lawson and Catherine Dieman Principals' award last year.

When asked about what advice he would give to students arriving at MUHS, Austin was unequivocal. “Stay focused — follow something that you want to do. It might be hard — things might hold you back — but you have to push through them. Don't let other people get in your way.”

Austin is still determining what is next as he approaches graduation. He is interested in remaining in Vermont and entering the workforce, but would also like to find opportunities to travel. He is in the process of planning a trip to New York City and would like to explore other places as well.



Austin Gero  
MUHS

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

**Congratulations,**  
**Gina and Austin**

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**Gina and Austin**

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