

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Nilah Fitzgerald

We're proud to announce that Nilah Fitzgerald is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. Nilah splits her time with her dad and dog in Addison and with her mom, brother and stepdad in Vergennes. She likes living in both places, enjoying the closeness of Vergennes and the openness of Addison.

Nilah likes the small sizes of her classes at VUHS. Her favorite class was Humanities. She really enjoyed the discussions with her classmates. She also loved researching music and why it is a universal language, noting that presenting her research to the community was a highlight.

Nilah has been on the Honor Roll for all semesters in high school. Each year, she has also received an award of recognition from one of her teachers. Last year, Nilah received the Xerox Innovation Award through the University of Rochester.

Outside of academics, Nilah played soccer through 11th grade and will play lacrosse in the spring. She has been a member of the Green Team for all four years of high school, and was inducted into the National Honor Society last year. The blood drive that the NHS sponsors has been a highlight because it brings the community together to help others.

In the summers, she works at Camp Kookamunga spending the day at Memorial Sports Center in Middlebury and taking the campers on field trips each week. She loves connecting with the kids. Outside of school, Nilah likes to ski, play piano and spend time with her family and dog.

Nilah's advice to younger students is to not worry so much about the "what ifs." "I have learned that if I can stop myself from thinking about what could be, I will surprise myself with what I can do."

Next year, Nilah will be attending Montana State University with a major in Earth Science. She is looking forward to exploring the outdoors and spending time with family that lives nearby, stating, "I fell in love with Montana when I was little, so I have known that I would want to spend time out there. I want to thank my parents for giving me so many opportunities to be myself." We wish Nilah all the best!



Nilah Fitzgerald
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Maya Breckenridge

Maya Breckenridge, the daughter of Kimberly and Matthew Breckenridge, is Middlebury Union High School's latest student of the week. Maya lives with her parents and younger brother, Max, who is a 10th-grader at MUHS. The family resides in Cornwall with their labradoodle, Luke.

Maya says she loves coming to school because she is very involved with clubs and it is a great way to start her morning. Her favorite class is ESS (Environmental Systems and Societies) where they are discussing food and its impact on the environment. She has really appreciated Mr. Krahn as he has pushed her to become a better writer and says that Mr. Crodelle has been a great advisor because he is able to make school feel not so stressful.

Maya has been on honor roll all four years and is a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. She was awarded the Clarkson University Leadership and Achievement Award during her junior year, and also attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) leadership conference. Maya is currently a Coordinator in the Peer Leader program that works 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 (SCOHR); a member of MiddMinds, a club focusing on mental health; and is the President of Student Council.

Outside of school, Maya is very busy. She volunteers at Porter Hospital as a greeter. In addition to volunteering, Maya works two jobs. She is a barista at Otter Creek Bakery and caters at Middlebury College. In the fall, Maya was the Captain of the field hockey team and plans to play tennis this spring. When not working on schoolwork, volunteering or playing sports, Maya enjoys spending time with friends and family playing lots of board games and enjoying lots of movie nights.

When asked for her advice for younger students at MUHS, Maya encouraged students to get out of their comfort zone and take positive risks. Maya stated, "I used to not be very outgoing but being involved in clubs and activities built my confidence to take on IB and speak up in class."

Maya is planning on continuing her studies next year at a college somewhere most likely in the Northeast. She plans to major in biology and hopes to pursue a career in the medical field. We at MUHS wish Maya the best for the rest of her senior year and the years to come.



Maya Breckenridge
MUHS

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

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