

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Ryan Wright

Ryan Wright is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. Ryan has lived in Addison his entire life with his dad, stepmom, and his dog, Bella (a birthday gift he received when he was just two years old). Growing up alongside Bella and in a tight-knit community that always shows up for one another has shaped Ryan's appreciation for small-town connection and support. "I believe that's how it should be," he says.

Ryan enjoys school more than he sometimes realizes, especially because of the friends and classmates he's shared so many experiences with. His favorite subject is CAD, where Mr. Crawford pushes him to make his work the best it can be. Ryan loves designing buildings and structures and using his visualization skills to bring ideas to life. Academically, he has made the honor roll every year and was selected as a delegate for the 2025 Vermont Boys State.

Sports play a major role in Ryan's high school life. He has played football and basketball throughout all four years and added baseball to his schedule during his junior and senior years. He served as a varsity basketball captain during both his junior and senior seasons.

Outside of school, Ryan holds two summer jobs: one with the City of Vergennes Public Works Department, where he's been learning about construction and practical life skills, and another at the West Addison General Store. In his free time, he enjoys playing sports with friends, drawing, fishing and spending time with friends and family.

One of the most important lessons Ryan has learned in high school is not to get lost in the what-ifs. "I see people worrying about the hypotheticals too much. Live life to the fullest and with purpose. If you can stop and think about someone or something you want to devote your life to, you're going to make them proud. Make memories with your peers now because life can change before you even know it."

After graduation, Ryan plans to attend college to study architecture and pursue his Bachelor of Architecture degree. Good luck, Ryan!



Ryan Wright
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Peter Conklin

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize Peter Conklin as its latest Student of the Week. Peter is the son of Kate Conklin and lives in Middlebury with his mom, her boyfriend, and his sister Ellie, a tenth-grader at MUHS. He also has four older siblings, and the family shares their home with three beloved cats.

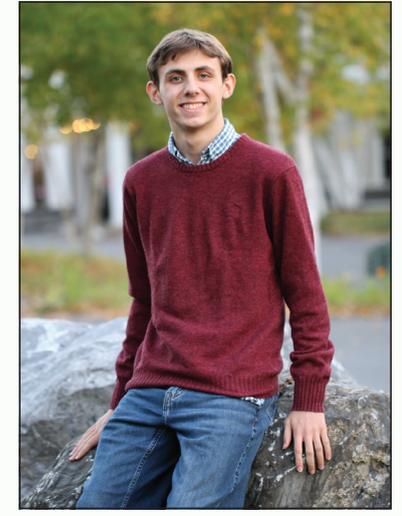
At school, Peter appreciates being surrounded by peers who are genuinely interested in learning and in exploring diverse perspectives. His favorite classes are Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Latin. He credits Mr. Tufts and Ms. Carroll as his favorite teachers. Peter notes that "Mr. Tufts is able to succinctly tie the Latin language to Roman and modern culture — it's almost like an anthropology course." He adds that "With Ms. Carroll, we get to discuss philosophy, and she's great at incorporating students' interests into the curriculum, which keeps everyone more invested."

Peter has received the Language Acquisition Award and has been an active member of Student Council for three years, serving as secretary for two of them. He also participates in DREAM Club mentorship and Scholars Bowl.

Outside of school, Peter babysits for a neighborhood family and spends much of his free time reading. He especially enjoys exploring history, political theory and philosophy, and has recently developed an interest in sculpting. Politics and current events are also important to Peter. He has become deeply interested in the work of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, particularly Hegel's ideas about Immanent Critique and Dialectical Reasoning — engaging in logical debate to form a worldview. Peter says this philosophical approach has helped him connect his academic studies to real life.

His biggest piece of advice for underclassmen is simple but powerful: "Read. Reading has changed my life."

Looking ahead, Peter plans to attend a four-year university to study accounting or political science. He is also considering a future career as a professor. MUHS congratulates Peter Conklin on his many accomplishments and wishes him continued success throughout his senior year and beyond.



Peter Conklin
MUHS

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Telecommunications Sales & Service
Data Cabling • Fiber Optic Solutions
Security Surveillance Systems

John and Jim Fitzgerald
www.bts-vt.com • 802-388-8999

Full
CIRCLE
BUILDING AND REMODELING, LLC
ESTD 2023
(802)488-4315

New Haven, VT • fullcirclebrvt.com

Congratulations, students!

To celebrate your achievements, Full Circle Building & Remodeling is providing each Student of the Week \$25 in local currency (Bristol Bucks, Middlebury Money, Vergennes Green, or Brandon Bucks). Just check in with your school's Student of the Week coordinator to claim your prize!

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

Congratulations, Peter and Ryan!

JACKMAN FUELS
SINCE 1945

1 Main Street, Vergennes
802-877-2661 • jackmanfuels.com

Plumbing & Heating
J. W. & D. E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

Your hard work is really paying off!

802-877-3118
Vergennes, VT

JOHNSON LAW OFFICES

Congratulations!

Affordable & client-focused legal services

- Business Law • Wills, Trusts and Estates
- Government Contracting • Elder Law
- Property and Tenancy Issues

802-489-5099 or
Brad@LawDCVT.com

28 North Street - Bristol Village

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Way to go, Ryan and Peter!

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • JackmansInc.com

Want to help celebrate these students and support this page?

Please contact Jenna at
advertising@addisonindependent.com to advertise.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, VT, Since 1946

Keep your Eye on your future goals!

Open every other Monday 8-4:30 and Tues-Fri 8-4:30

Peak View EYE CARE

27 Main Street, Vergennes

Congratulations Ryan and Peter

Rainbow Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT

Congratulations, Peter and Ryan!

FRIENDO CONSTRUCTION
Your friendly neighborhood Roofing Contractor
802-453-2255 • friendconstructionvt.com