

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Zachary Dragon

Zachary Dragon is Otter Valley Union High School's Student of the Week. He lives in Sudbury with his parents and two cats, Tonka and Reese.

At OV, Zac says some of his favorite parts of the school day are getting to see his friends, the strong school spirit, and the opportunity to learn something new every day. When it comes to teachers, he doesn't choose favorites; he appreciates what each of them brings to the classroom.

Zac is proud to have made the Principals' List and to serve as varsity football captain. A longtime football player, Zac quarterbacked the Otter football team the past two seasons, earning a good measure of success. For instance, he led his team to a win in the Division III semifinal game this year with three successful touchdown passes. The team finished a winning season with six victories.

He's earned a measure of wisdom during his years at OVUHS, and his advice to younger students is simple: "Learn all you can while the opportunity is in front of you."

Outside of school, Zac works at Hayes Pallets in Brandon and enjoys hunting, hanging out with friends, and playing sports.

After graduation, Zachary plans to attend Vermont State University Castleton. We wish Zachary all the best!



Zachary Dragon  
OVUHS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Maris LaPerle

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Maris LaPerle as our student of the week. Maris lives in New Haven with her parents, Sarah and Adam, and her younger sister, Gwen, who is a sophomore at Mt. Abe.

Maris has earned high and highest honors for academic and transferable skills each semester of high school. Her favorite classes include Money Matters, Statistics, French IV and AP Environmental Science, an online course she completed through Virtual High School. When asked about her teachers, she explained, "My favorite teachers are Mr. Foster and Ms. Jacobeit. Mr. Foster always wants the best for everyone and will stay after school or come before school to help you with work. He grades quickly and understands how to help students independently. Ms. Jacobeit listens to each student individually and understands that French is a hard subject. She knows how to teach in a way that is caring and easy to understand. I have also had two really important support people at school, my advisor Ms. Little and our athletic trainer Meg Quiet."

Along with her academic achievements, Maris is an integral member of the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She has been on varsity for both sports since 9th grade and was captain of the field hockey team junior and senior years. In addition to athletics, Maris is involved in several student groups. She was a cast member of the fall production of "Anastasia," a member of the Eagle Leadership Society, the Environmental Action Group and Morgan's Message Club. In addition, she was selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State this past summer. Outside of school, she works weekends as a host at Fire and Ice restaurant in Middlebury. In her spare time, Maris enjoys working out, reading, playing board games, hanging out with friends and playing sports.

Reflecting on her time at Mt. Abe, Maris states, "The most important lesson I have had while at Mt. Abe is learning how to be a better leader and a better friend. I would say, don't be afraid to expand your friend group. High school has taught me that people grow and change so don't be afraid to make new friends along the way."

Looking ahead, Maris plans to attend Washington College in Maryland and will play for the field hockey team. We will miss Maris's strong commitment to the Mt. Abraham community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Maris LaPerle  
MAUHS

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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, Zachary and Maris!**

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