

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Kyan Barcomb

Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week is Kyan Barcomb. Kyan lives in Pantown with her mom, dad, and older brother on 24 acres of land filled with woods, animals, and plenty of activity. Her family has two dogs, two cats, chickens and roosters, and even a turtle that belongs to her brother. Life at home is busy and adventurous, with everything from raising meat birds to riding dirt bikes and minibikes around the property.

At VUHS, Kyan values the school's small class sizes, which she says make learning more engaging and allow students to be surrounded by others who are equally invested. One of her favorite teachers is Ms. Thompson, her AP Biology teacher in 11th grade, whom she admires for her deep knowledge, respect for students, and willingness to answer questions. Academically, Kyan has been on the High Honor Roll since 9th grade, received the Sage Award in 11th grade, and earned an award of recognition from Ms. Kayhart during Pre-Calculus.

Kyan is highly involved in school life. She has served as vice president of her class for all four years of high school and is a member of the Math Team, Green Team, Leo Club, and National Honor Society. One of her proudest moments came this year when her class raised more than \$3,000 for cancer research in just one week through a walk-a-thon, exceeding their goal and bringing the community together for a cause, complete with some laughs along the way.

Outside the classroom, Kyan volunteers with the Humane Society, helping to socialize stray cats. Through the Leo Club, she enjoys reading to younger students, especially preschoolers, and through the National Honor Society, she took part in sponsoring a student during the holidays by picking out gifts.

In her free time, Kyan loves spending time with friends and family. Each evening, her family makes a point to sit together and talk about their day. She especially enjoys time with her dogs and summers spent on the lake, where she appreciates the history and stories of Arnold's Bay. With her family, every outing is an adventure.

One of the most meaningful experiences for Kyan at VUHS has been the school's annual "Ag Day," which celebrates agriculture and the hardworking people who sustain the community. She says the tradition reminds her of who she is and her family's legacy, and of the importance of honoring Vermont's agricultural roots. Kyan states, "I think that everyone in this school can relate to the experience of working hard, because we all have to, and days like 'Ag Day' have shaped my experience and insights. I hope that future students continue to keep this tradition in our schools as our way of honoring the people who keep our milk, dairy, and meat shelves stocked. It is a reminder of where we come from and a promise never to let the true Vermont way of life be forgotten."

After high school, Kyan is considering several colleges and plans to major in Biology or Marine Biology, depending on where she decides to go. She says she is keeping her options open as she thoughtfully considers her next steps.



Kyan Barcomb
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Esra Anzali

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize Esra Anzali as its Student of the Week. Esra, the daughter of Ata and Fahimeh, lives in Weybridge. She has one sister, Narges, who is a sophomore at Princeton University, and two cats.

When reflecting on her time at Middlebury Union High School, Esra shared, "I love the community here. I like the smaller size and the mix of different types of people. I have friends from many different groups. I also feel like the teachers are incredible — there is lots of support and a high level of learning."

Esra expressed special gratitude for her advisor, Mr. Bartlett, who supported her during her transition back to Middlebury and helped her with future planning and building self-confidence. She also credits Mr. Krahn and Ms. Carroll as being instrumental in her learning, noting that their classes feel less like work and more like genuine learning experiences. "You can tell they are passionate about their students," she said. Esra shared that Theory of Knowledge, or TOK, has been her favorite class.

Throughout her high school career, Esra has earned honor roll recognition each year and was selected to attend Girls State. Esra is highly involved in the school community. She serves as the co-president of the Model United Nations, an activity she has participated in all four years. She is also a member of the BIPOC Affinity Group and a Peer Leader.

Outside of school, Esra works at Project Independence at Elderly Services, a day program for senior citizens, where she leads activities and works in the kitchen. "I love my job — I have built a community there," she shared. In her free time, Esra enjoys reading, spending time with friends, being in nature, hiking, and going to the gym.

Reflecting on her experience in the IB Diploma Program, Esra said she initially felt out of place and questioned whether she belonged, which had an impact on her confidence. However, seeing her results helped her realize that she was exactly where she needed to be. She expressed gratitude for the people who believed in her and encouraged her to stay in the program.

Her advice to other students is to take advantage of all the opportunities the school offers. "It's amazing how much support students receive here. It's good to get out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself," she said.

Next fall, Esra plans to attend Rice University in Texas, where she intends to study Public Policy Analysis.

Middlebury Union High School congratulates Esra on her many accomplishments and wishes her continued success throughout her senior year and beyond.



Esra Anzali
MUHS

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

Congratulations,
Esra and Kyan!

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