

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Ashtin Stearns

Ashtin Stearns is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. She lives on her family farm in Ferrisburgh, where dairy and beef cows are part of everyday life.

At school, Ashtin especially enjoyed plant and animal science for its hands-on activities and practical applications. Ashtin has earned either honors or high honors every semester. In athletics, Ashtin has received multiple awards in basketball and soccer, with a standout milestone this year: scoring a 1,000th career point in basketball, an achievement she is especially proud of.

Ashtin is active in the National Honor Society and competes on both the basketball and soccer teams. Giving back is an important part of her sports seasons, too. Ashtin regularly helps with Saturday youth clinics and will be coaching an AAU basketball team this spring.

In addition to working on a local dairy farm, Ashtin also works for a plumbing and heating company, a landscaping business, and maintains a weekly lawn-mowing job.

When there's free time, Ashtin enjoys spending time with family, playing sports, hunting, fishing, and caring for an ever-growing collection of animals at home: three donkeys, two goats, one alpaca, 20 rabbits, and 18 ducks.

One of the most important lessons Ashtin has learned in school is the value of choosing friends wisely and embracing change as people grow and move in different directions. Ashtin encourages underclassmen to stay true to themselves, "Not everyone will value you for who you are, but stick to yourself, your goals, and your values. You will get where you want to go."

After graduation, Ashtin plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill, majoring in plant science while continuing to compete in both soccer and basketball.

Congratulations to Ashtin on this well-earned recognition!



Ashtin Stearns
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Sole Pareja

Middlebury Union High School recognizes senior Sole Pareja as its Student of the Week. Sole lives in Middlebury with his parents, Roberto and Irina, his younger sibling Victor, who is in seventh grade, and a parakeet named Rio.

When asked about school, Sole shared, "I like to learn new things, and I enjoy spending time with friends. He noted that he has especially enjoyed Chemistry. Many teachers have had a positive impact on Sole's high school experience, and he would like to highlight Ms. Lloyd, Mr. Rooney, Mrs. LeBeau, and Mr. DeBruyn for being supportive educators.

Sole has consistently been on the honor roll and, during his sophomore year, earned an Art Award at the Hannaford Career Center. One unique area of interest for Sole is scientific illustration, which combines both his artistic and scientific passions.

Sole is very involved in music and theater at school. He participates in both choir and band, acts in school plays, and contributes behind the scenes by working on technical aspects, including ensuring microphones function properly during performances. In the spirit of learning and trying new things, Sole also plans to participate in track this spring.

Outside of school, Sole stays busy working two jobs at Two Brothers and Stone Leaf Tea House. At Two Brothers, he works bussing tables. He previously volunteered at Homeward Bound Animal Shelter and hopes to return to volunteering there in the future.

In his free time, Sole enjoys reading and drawing, as well as hiking, biking, and running.

Reflecting on his high school experience, Sole shared that an important lesson he has learned is to be himself and not try to be someone else. He also emphasized the importance of perseverance, noting that if you keep trying, you will eventually get there—because if you don't do it, no one else will.

Following graduation, Sole plans to attend college to study Wildlife Conservation, though he has not yet committed to a school. Middlebury Union High School congratulates Sole on his many accomplishments and wishes him continued success throughout his senior year and beyond.



Sole Pareja
MUHS

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

Congratulations, Sole and Ashtin

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