

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Otter Valley Union High School

Sienna-Marie Torres

This week's Otter Valley Union High School Student of the Week is Sienna-Marie Torres. She lives in Brandon with her mom, step-dad, brother and pets.

Sienna-Marie is an active member of the debate team, where she works on speeches and serves as co-council for the women's team. Her dedication has paid off, she was recognized with the first Jefferson Award at Otter Valley.

Academically, Sienna-Marie likes to stay busy and challenge herself. Despite being an English Language Learner (ELL), she pushes herself in rigorous classes such as AP History, Practical Chemistry, and Independent Art. One of her favorite teachers is Mrs. Bixby, whom she describes as creating a classroom that feels safe and welcoming and always being willing to help students, even in subjects outside her own.

Outside of school, Sienna-Marie works at Brandon House of Pizza, and when she's not on the job or studying, she enjoys baking and painting, often channeling her creativity into art projects and murals.

Looking ahead, Sienna-Marie plans to attend college and is currently finalizing her decision. Her top acceptances so far include the University of Southern Maine, UMass Dartmouth, Merrimack College, and Washington & Jefferson. She is interested in pursuing a Criminal Justice major while continuing to paint murals in her free time.

Reflecting on her experience, Sienna-Marie shares an important lesson she's learned:

"Invisible issues don't get fixed until you ask. I spent years as an unrecognized ELL student and finally brought it to attention, and now have the help I need to do better in English classes."

Her advice to other students? "Ask for the help you need. Not everyone is going to notice your struggles if you don't make them known."

The Otter Valley community says Congratulations to Sienna-Marie!



Sienna-Marie Torres
OVUHS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Riley Abbott

Mt. Abraham is proud to recognize Riley Abbott as our Student of the Week. Riley lives in Bristol with her parents, brother and dog.

Throughout her high school career, Riley has consistently achieved highest or high honors. She has received Outstanding Student of the Semester for the Hannaford Career Center her junior and senior years and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society this year. Riley enjoys building connections with her peers and teachers at school. She has been enrolled in the Human Services program at the Hannaford Career Center for two years and identifies this as her favorite class. Riley credits Mrs. Decker with helping her get through her high school career. She highlights Mrs. Decker's ability to support her students, always being available to them and assisting with difficult class or life situations as key reasons she is one of her favorite teachers. Riley also shares her appreciation for her advisor, Mr. Russell, stating that "he has an incredible understanding of his students and is always willing to help them by providing support." She cherishes his humor and how he has made advisory memorable.

Outside of school, Riley is employed at the Starksboro Preschool. She loves her work with the young children. In addition, she enjoys hanging out with her friends and family, walking, line dancing and listening to music.

Reflecting on her school experience, Riley shares, "Even though school can be challenging in many different ways, remember to do your best and work as hard as you can. I'd recommend focusing on your learning and yourself and skip the drama that goes on throughout your experience in school even if it's tricky! Always remember, you can do this!"

Looking ahead, Riley plans to attend the Community College of Vermont while continuing her work at the Starksboro Preschool. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



Riley Abbott
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,
Sienna-Marie and Riley

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Congratulations,
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