

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Calvin Almeida

Calvin Almeida is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week.

He lives in Addison with his mom and dad; sisters, Ava and Laci; their two Labs, Mavis and Sunny; and 20 beef cows. Agriculture plays a big role in Calvin's life. Forestry through the Hannaford Career Center is his favorite class. Now in his second year of the program, Calvin says teacher Aaron Townshend has helped him grow tremendously as both a student and future professional.

Calvin is a member of the National Technical Honor Society and has previously been recognized as Student of the Semester. He has also been deeply involved in FFA throughout high school and currently serves as President of the Vergennes FFA chapter. Through FFA, he has competed at multiple state and national conventions and has helped co-plan fundraisers, celebrations and the chapter's annual Ag Day.

Outside of school, Calvin works as a farmhand at Kayhart Brothers Dairy in West Addison, where he does a little bit of everything and truly enjoys the work. In his spare time, he cares for his own beef cows, spends time with friends and his girlfriend, and enjoys driving around Addison County.

His advice to other students: "If anyone offers help in any way that benefits you and your learning, take it. Advocate for yourself and what you think you need to help you achieve your goals."

After graduating in June, Calvin plans to work full-time at Kayhart Brothers Dairy. He's grateful for the opportunities he's had and excited to begin this next chapter.



Calvin Almeida  
VUHS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Berkeley Graham-Gurland

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize senior Berkeley Graham-Gurland as its Student of the Week. Berkeley, the son of Amy Graham and Suzanne Gurland, lives in Middlebury and has one sister, who is currently a junior at Dartmouth College.

When asked what he enjoys most about school, Berkeley shared, "I like learning as a whole." He enjoys all of his courses, with a particular passion for math. He credits Mr. Comar as an influential teacher, noting that he currently has him for Calculus and previously had him for another math course. Throughout high school, Berkeley has consistently earned honor roll or high honors recognition and has received nominations from the Math and Science departments. He also has a special interest in game design.

Berkeley is actively involved in school activities, participating in cross country, ultimate frisbee, and Scholars' Bowl. In addition, he is musically inclined, taking DP Music and playing the flute. He plans to look for a job this summer as well.

In his free time, Berkeley enjoys reading and playing video games.

Reflecting on his high school experience, Berkeley shared that navigating social situations while having autism has been challenging. Over time, however, he has become much more social and involved in activities than he once imagined possible. "I have grown a lot since 9th grade," he said. He noted that taking the first step can be the hardest part for someone with autism or social anxiety, but that it has become easier with time as his confidence has grown. For students enrolled in the DP program, Berkeley offers this advice: "Treat it like a marathon—however, you can't walk, because it will catch up to you."

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



Berkeley Graham-Gurland  
MUHS

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

**Congratulations, Berkeley and Calvin!**

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