



**Troy Middle School  
Student of the Month  
April 2017**

**7 Red Team Representative**

My name is *Matthew Lunsford*, and I am representing 7 Red. I am 13, and I like to play my Xbox when I have free time. I take my classwork and homework seriously. I am also sympathetic towards my friends, and a bit athletic.

Most people that know my family would say that we are social. I have an older step-brother, a sister, and grandparents. My parents' names are Nikki and Steve. Some enjoyable hobbies of mine are playing video games, and running track or cross country.

Something very valuable to me at Troy are the cross-country and track and field teams. I have run cross-country for 3 years, and I have got to say, I don't regret a second of it. Coach Davis holds a special spot in my heart, as he is such a good coach in cross-country. I have been a member of the track team for 2 years. Of all the coaches, half have taught me at W.B.O., and it's always nice to see them. I'll be sad to leave these teams for high school, as they play such a valuable part in my life. Being a part of these teams gives me a chance to bond with other kids, and provides many enjoyable experiences. At first, in fourth grade, I wanted no part of these sports, but I am so glad that I gave them a try. I appreciate all of the great experiences and teachers I have had at Troy so far.

## **7 White Team Representative**

Hi everyone, my name is *Amelia Dubs* and I am a seventh grader here at TMS. I'd like to welcome my parents, Susie and Brad Dubs, my older sister Peyton, and my grandparents. My dad is a sergeant for the Joliet Police Department, my mom has worked at Troy Heritage Trail as an interventionist for the last 15 years, and my sister attends Joliet Junior College and she is studying to be an occupational therapist.

I am currently a member of the Troy Symphonic Band. I am also a swimmer at the YMCA. I attend Harvest Bible Chapel Joliet where I am active in the youth group and volunteer in children's ministry and welcome ministry. Some of the things I enjoy doing are bike riding, hiking, painting, and volunteering in Joliet.

Two people that have made my time at Troy wonderful are Mr. Goetz and Ms. Carlton, the band directors here at Troy Middle School. They taught me to work hard at what I do, and to never give up even when it gets hard. Being in the Troy Symphonic band has made feel me like I am part of a big family. My band family is supportive and being in band has been the best part of my Troy experience. I am looking forward to attending band camp at the University of Illinois this year and playing in the band in eighth grade.

I am incredibly thankful to be given this award for the student of the month. Thank you to everyone at Troy Middle School for this honor. Thank you.

## **7 Blue Team Representative**

Hi my name is *Armoné Lurry* and I represent 7 Blue. I have one brother, Donald, one sister Damirah , two god sisters Quentasia and Ty'Zhere, and one god brother Deonta. Since the day I was born, they've always been there for me no matter what. I really want to thank my mom Roschelle Pitts for raising me with respect for others and with kindness and compassion. I know it was hard for her being a single mother raising two kids. No matter what I've always had family there for me, like my grandfather who passed away from Lung Cancer in 2014, but before he passed, he always told me to be patient and follow your dreams and you could be whatever you want.

My hobbies are painting my nails, and sometimes doing my hair. When I'm older I want to go to college for Cosmetology and Nursing so I can help others, make people feel special and look beautiful.

In looking at all the teachers I have had over the years, it is impossible to pick a favorite. Every teacher I have had goes out of their way to give me (us students) an education so we can grow into the person we are destined to be. Without such amazing teachers here at Troy and such an incredible family, I wouldn't be where I am today. I appreciate all of them so much.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Accelerated Class Representative

Hi my name is ***Kiley Duensing*** and I am here representing the seventh accelerated team. I am here with my mom and dad, Angie and Scott Duensing. I also have two sisters, Kara and Leah. Outside of school, I participate in competitive cheerleading at Team Illinois Cheer. This past season I was on Silver Charm, J4. A highlight of my year was winning NCA with my team. The previous two years I participated in L.E.A.D club at the WBO. The sponsor, Ms. Acevedo taught me many leadership skills in which I use in and out of school. I enjoyed being able to help others while participating in this club. Thank you for the opportunity of being student of the month.

### 8 Red Representative

Hi I'm ***Ruben David Torres***. I am just a kid from 8 Red who had a rough start in the beginning of the year, but powered through it with the help from a special teacher, who I will get to later. I am here with my dad, Ruben Torres, and my sister Brenda, my dear sister who I will miss when she goes to college after working so hard for it. My dad is a hard working parent who loves his job. He also has pushed me to do my best in and out of school. Some things that I like to do is play sports, like football and basketball, hang out with my friends and be with my family. Mrs. Silverman is the teacher who helped me power through the year. She is the kindest and best teacher a kid could ever ask for. She helped after my parents got divorced, and she helped me when I did not feel good; she was there through it all. From her I learned that working hard pays off, and that you should never stop working hard. It is an honor to be the last person for 2016-2017 on my team to be student of the month.

## **8 White Team Representative**

Good evening. My name is *Meghan Grabs*, and I represent the 8 White team. I have a sister named Sarah, and she's 29 years old with two daughters, Brenya and Gemma. I have three brothers named Jake, Jacob, and Joshua. My grandparents died when I was young, so I don't really know them all that well. My parents' names are Maureen and Fredrich Grabs. My favorite hobbies outside of school are drawing, reading, and going outside every now and then. I have always loved to draw since I was 4 years old. It was my passion, and I loved it. It seemed to calm me whenever I was upset, and it still does. I'll read a book if I don't feel like drawing, or if I don't have an inspiration.

Mrs. Rogina has helped me get better at understanding ELA because I had a hard time in this subject. She helped me reach my goal to become better at ELA and understand nouns and pronouns. She has made my time at Troy a good time, and I thank her for that. My time in art club has also made my time at Troy fun. It helped me get better at making my drawings a little more realistic and cool. It also helped me to not think too hard of what to draw; just draw whatever comes to mind and let my brain do the work. I thank Mrs. Boda for helping in art, too.

## **8 Blue Team Representative**

Hi, my name is *Stacy Drew*, I am an 8th grader here at Troy Middle School. Here with me tonight is my mom, Karen, and my dad, Paul. I also have an older sister, Allison, who couldn't be here tonight, but she also used to go to Troy. Currently, she is a sophomore at Joliet West. Besides school, I also dance. This is my 11th year dancing and my 6th year of being a competitive dancer. I usually dance 6 to 7 days a week. This year has been especially busy because I have the privilege to be an assistant teacher for some of the teachers at my studio. I found that I love teaching little kids to dance; it is a lot of fun. I have been in the Troy school district since kindergarten. The elementary school I attended to was Troy Shorewood Elementary. Troy Shorewood had a big impact on my life. The most amazing thing about Troy Shorewood is that they are like a family. Not only did they teach me Math, Science, Social Studies, and English, but they taught me about the outside world. Troy Shorewood taught me to share, how to interact politely with others, and what was right from wrong. There is a teacher at Troy Shorewood that had a huge impact on my life. She was my 4th grade teacher Ms. McGuire. Ms. McGuire has a special place in my heart. I have learned a lot of life lessons from her. She is one of the best teachers I have ever had. Ms. McGuire taught me one important thing that stuck with me through the years - it was to never give up - and I still use that today here at school. I want to thank her and all teachers at Troy Shorewood for teaching me through the years. Since graduation is so close, I would just like to say Troy Middle School has prepared me for high school, and I am very excited to go. In conclusion, I am honored to be Student of the Month, and thank you for your time.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Accelerated Class Representative

Hello. My name is *Ben McCune*. I am an eighth grader representing the 8th grade Accelerated classes. My parents' names are Jeff and Rosie McCune. I have two sisters named Abby and Emily. Abby is a sixth grader at WBO and Emily is a fifth grader at WBO. My dad works in the IT department in the St. Charles School District. My mom used to teach here at Troy, but once I came along she became a stay at home mom. I have a RC truck that I enjoy to drive around my yard and I am planning on starting to build and launch model rockets with my dad. I enjoy playing baseball with the neighbors across the street and we will sometimes play video games if it is not nice outside. In school, I participated in Chess Club, TMS Honor Society, Academic Bowl, and Scholastic Bowl.

I think the one teacher that made my time here at Troy special was Dr. Will-Henn. Along with being my coach for Academic and Scholastic Bowl, she taught me in her Sci-Cap class. I really enjoyed her class, especially the rocket we had to design and the CO<sub>2</sub> dragster we had to make as projects. I really enjoyed these specific projects because I hope to do something with rockets or planes when I am older, and these two projects taught me about aerodynamics and physics. Dr. Will-Henn has been one of the many people in my life who has taught me to strive for greatness. My dad is the other and together they have taught me to never accept doing the bare minimum and to do more than what is expected. I hope I can use these lessons in my time at Joliet West and farther on into college and my job. Thank you.