



**Troy Middle School  
Student of the Month  
January 2018**

**7 Red Team Representative**

My name is *Damien Dougherty*, I am 13 years old and representing the 7 Red Team. I live in Joliet with my parents, sister, and brother. I have 5 other siblings as well. My mom is a stay-at-home mom, and my dad works at Joliet Junior College with computers. My grandparents also play a key role in my life. My grandma has a travel business and my grandpa is on the Laraway School Board. Both my brother and I play basketball for the ATL Rams. Basketball is my favorite thing to do outside of school. I am also on the Troy Bowling Team.

I think Troy is a beautiful place because it has a wonderful staff. The teachers are very helpful and motivate us to work hard. The exploratory classes are so much fun. My favorite exploratory class so far is Con Tech, because I really like technology. I also think that P.E. is enjoyable because on Fridays we get free choice, which allows me to play basketball. I am grateful for all my teachers that thought I was deserving of this honor.

**7 White Team Representative**

My name is *Libby Ferak*, and I'm on the seventh grade white team. My parents are John and Andrea Ferak. I have two siblings, JD and Caroline, who attend Troy Shorewood Elementary. Joining us here tonight are my grandparents, John and Cathy Ferak.

Most days after school you'll see me hitting the pool for the Joliet Jets swim team practices. I also enjoy cooking, baking, reading, and watching Netflix, but only when my homework is done! This year I'm new to the Troy district after moving here from Wisconsin. So far my favorite part about being here is all the wonderful teachers I have. They have challenged and encouraged me, while making learning fun. This year I have grown to love math, and I'm looking forward to trying out for the track team this spring and joining some clubs next year. Thank you for this honor.

## 7 Blue Team Representative

Hi, my name is *Alyssa Hoffman* and I am representing 7 Blue team. I live with my parents, Cheryl and Jeremy, my two sisters, Brianna and Emma, and my dog, Tyson. With me here tonight I have my mom, sisters and my aunt. I am currently on the Troy dance team and we just got back from state. We placed second! Outside of school I dance competitively at BDA in Crest Hill. This is my fourth year on the dance team at BDA. Some of my hobbies are coloring, dancing, and hanging out with my friends.

I have always attended Troy Schools and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have always felt at home here. Each one of my teachers have supported and helped me along the way. One of my teachers that has made a big impact on me this year is my math teacher, Ms. Correa. Although math has always been my favorite subject she has made it even more enjoyable this year. Another great experience I have had at Troy is being on the dance team. One great thing about the dance team is how close we have become...they are more than friends; they are family!

Thank you from choosing me as student of the month. I am very grateful to be given this opportunity. Have a great night.

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

Hello, my name is *Lidia Kuziel* and I represent the 7th Accelerated team. My family consists of my mom, my dad, and my younger brothers, Damian, who is in 5th grade and David, who is in kindergarten. My parents are immigrants, while my grandparents sometimes visit from Poland. At home, we sometimes speak Polish. Whenever I have extra time, I draw animals and symbols from movies. I also play clarinet and have joined many clubs, including Recycling and Gardening Club.

Out of all my experiences at Troy, one of them stood out the most; my field trip to Naper Settlement. This place was very detailed and showed a different way of life. During the time I was there, we were able to encounter different occupations at the time of American settlement to the West. This settlement described how people used to live and the way we have changed throughout time. Troy has impacted me by the teachers and staff that help me and others understand fully of what is being taught. My time at Troy has and will be special.

## 8 Red Representative

My name is *Zach Roberts* and I am on the 8 Red Team. I am here with my mom and dad, Dawn and Steven. What I like to do outside of school is skateboard and run. One good experience that I have had at Troy is on the Cross Country team. This is where I grew my passion for running and where I have met new friends. I will remember the memories that I have made on that team.

## **8 White Team Representative**

I am *Tyler Hartke* from the 8 White team. Here with me tonight is my mom, Katie, and my dad, Dave. One activity I enjoy is reading when I have time. Another activity I enjoy is scouting. As a scout, I had the opportunity to be in the honor guard for the Veteran's Day assembly at TMS along with a few other friends of mine. I lead the procession in front of the flags. It was an honor to participate. Another time at Troy, there was an assembly where there was a guest speaker and he talked about disabilities. He said that he did not like the name "disabled" and preferred the name "differently-abled". Since then I have seen disabilities differently and refer to them as differently-abled instead of disabled. These are a couple of examples of my positive experiences at Troy. As football coach Jimmy Johnson said, "The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra." Being at Troy showed me that this is true.

## **8 Blue Team Representative**

My name is *Kylie Jackson* and I am representing 8 Blue. Today here with me, are my wonderful parents, Michelle and Matt Jackson. I come from a family of five and I have two brothers, Casey, 17, and Corey, 10. My family has supported me throughout the years of my life and I wouldn't be where I am today without them. My cheer team is my other support group. I have been so blessed to have made the Troy varsity cheer team three years in a row, and just last month on January 20th, my team and I placed 4th in the state. These girls have allowed me to understand what it means to be hardworking. The wonderful girls on my team helped me push through any obstacles I came across. The Troy cheer team has made me a better person by teaching me how to balance out my responsibilities along with learning to work together. My cheer team has taught me many life lessons and to respect our coaches. But, besides that, I also want to give a very special thanks to my cheer coaches, Alicia Headrick and Erin Locke. Without them I wouldn't be as strong as I am; they pushed and pushed me and never gave up even when the road became bumpy. My nine years at Troy has flashed before my eyes and I'm sad to let go and move on to the "big school". I am so very thankful for everyone in my life and I sometimes do take that for granted. I am very honored to represent my team 8 Blue tonight at this Board Meeting. Thank you very much.

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

Hello, my name is *PraiseGod Anighoro* and I represent the 8th Grade Accelerated Team. I am truly honored to be awarded student of the month. Student of the month is an award earned by character, leadership, and citizenship not solely on academics. I am pleased to know that I was considered in these categories and was chosen to represent 8th grade accelerated students and teachers. I am here with my father a, chemical engineer. He has played a very important role in my education. The lessons I've learned from him I have tried to use in my everyday life. These lessons have significantly helped me as a person. For that I want to thank him. My mom has also played a vital role in my education. She has taught me that, knowledge gives me power, but character gives me respect. I also want to thank my three siblings, Gaius, Bene, and Runor. I learned one thing from them and it is that there are people out in the world that will try to annoy the heck out of you. Even though we argue at times the love I have for my brother and sisters cannot be described in words.

As I said, my dad is an engineer and my mom is an accountant, so if you couldn't tell I come from parents who love math. What a coincidence that I enjoy math, too. When I do math I have joy just being able to solve and understand problems. Another activity that brings me joy is my sports. I've participated in Troy basketball for the last two years. The last two years with my teammates have been incredible. I've drawn closer to each and every one of them. Those guys are the hardest working and talented group of people that I have ever met. I consider them my brothers. We've come up short the last two seasons for state being eliminated during sectionals. These losses don't change who we are or what we are. We are teammates, family, and Trojans. Last year was also my first year participating in track where I connected with different people. I was a 400m runner. As the season progressed last track season I improved every time. It showed by my 400m dash time breaking my PR 3 times that season. I also came up short for state last season less than second away from state running a 1:00 400 meter dash. Everyday I think about how I fell short from state for track. Hopefully this year I make my mark and go to state.

Once again I want to thank the teachers, coaches, and students who have made my experience at Troy the last two years the best.