

Mary M. Knight

September Students and Staff of the Month

Celebrating GRIT: Growth, Resilience, Integrity, and Tenacity

September GRIT Theme: "Establishing Our Culture of Excellence"

This September, Mary M. Knight focuses on establishing the foundation for a culture of excellence through Growth mindset and high expectations. We are intentionally building the systems, routines, and standards that define quality work across our entire school community. By emphasizing Growth as the cornerstone of GRIT, we empower our students and staff to approach the school year with the belief that effort, engagement, and excellence are within reach for everyone. Whether it's arriving prepared, participating actively, sitting appropriately during instruction, or maintaining consistent expectations, we are laying the groundwork for a year of meaningful learning and character development. When we establish clear systems and high standards from day one, we create an environment where every member of our community understands what excellence looks like and knows they have the capacity to achieve it.

Elementary Students of the Month



Marigold Guelzo

Pre-School

Marigold exemplifies GRIT in her daily school experience. She demonstrates Resilience by consistently completing her homework and remembering to bring it to school. She shows Integrity through her respect for others' turns to speak and learn, and displays exceptional self-management by maintaining focus during instruction. Marigold holds herself to high standards and expects her best from herself each day—a true reflection of her Growth and Tenacity.



Bryson McCartney

Kindergarten

Bryson has demonstrated outstanding Growth and Tenacity in his early school year. He has developed essential school-ready skills and has shown Resilience by listening with care and maintaining focus on learning tasks. His academic gains and positive behavior underscore his commitment to excellence, making him a wonderful representative of our Culture of Excellence.



Brielle Dunnington

1st Grade

Brielle arrives at school each day ready to learn with preparedness and a positive attitude—hallmarks of her Tenacity. She displays Integrity through respectful behavior and active participation. Her ability to persist through challenges and her pride in her learning demonstrate remarkable Growth. Brielle embodies GRIT and serves as an excellent role model for her peers.



Eden Johnson

2nd Grade

Eden is a dedicated student who demonstrates daily commitment to her learning through Tenacity and Resilience. Her joyful positivity enriches our classroom community and reflects her Integrity in supporting peers. Eden's enthusiasm for helping others learn and her work ethic showcase the Growth and character we value at Mary M. Knight.



Andrew Ushman

3rd Grade

Andrew demonstrates GRIT through his consistent display of our OWLS values and his natural leadership. His Integrity shines through his respectful interactions with younger students and his dedication to helping peers succeed in math. Andrew's Resilience and Tenacity support his communication and positive decision-making, making him an outstanding community member.



Alaina Dunnington

4th Grade

Alaina embodies dedication and engagement in her learning. Her Tenacity is evident in consistent on-time work submissions and thorough preparation for class. She demonstrates Growth through thoughtful questioning and intellectual curiosity. Her Resilience and Integrity extend to supporting classmates, creating a collaborative learning environment that uplifts our entire school community.



Kynlee Mezzell

5th Grade

Kynlee is a shining example of GRIT in action. Despite navigating significant transitions as a new student, she demonstrates remarkable Resilience by committing fully to her work. Her Tenacity enables her to engage thoughtfully even through challenging material. Her openness to help and Growth mindset, combined with her positive attitude, inspire those around her and exemplify the excellence we celebrate.



Tristan Persell

6th Grade

Tristen is the embodiment of our Culture of Excellence. He demonstrates daily Tenacity through preparedness and active participation. His Resilience allows him to work with purpose and persistence through all endeavors. Tristen's consistency, integrity, and positive approach make him an outstanding representative of GRIT and a role model for our entire school community.

Secondary Students of the Month



Alaina Tinoco

7th Grade

Alaina demonstrates Integrity and Tenacity through her helpful nature and active engagement in class discussions. Her willingness to contribute to our learning community and support her peers reflects her commitment to Growth and her understanding of what it means to be part of our culture of excellence.



Gage Winkler

8th Grade

Gage exhibits remarkable Growth both inside and outside the classroom. His Resilience shows through improved organizational skills and academic engagement. His Tenacity enables him to make thoughtful decisions with good situational awareness. Gage's commitment to his development demonstrates the intentional effort that defines GRIT.



Secret Biggs

9th Grade

Secret exemplifies the essence of GRIT through demonstrated leadership and Integrity. By independently initiating and conducting a professional restorative conversation with a peer, Secret showed remarkable Resilience, maturity, and commitment to building our positive school culture. Her self-directed action and social-emotional skills serve as an inspiration to our entire community.



Kris Ortiz

10th Grade

Kris demonstrates exceptional GRIT through his Resilience and Tenacity in overcoming personal challenges. Despite circumstances beyond his control, he shows remarkable Integrity and commitment by diligently making up work and meeting deadlines. His mature approach to adversity and his dedication to his education reflect the determination we deeply value.



Destiny Larance

11th Grade

Destiny demonstrates consistent GRIT through her punctuality, preparation, and engaged participation. Her Tenacity is evident in her willingness to seek help when needed, and her quiet determination reflects both Integrity and a strong Growth mindset. She is a dependable community member who contributes meaningfully to our classroom culture.



Jordan Wood

12th Grade

Jordan exemplifies GRIT as a Senior leader. His remarkable Growth in work ethic, combined with his Tenacity in pursuing grade improvement, demonstrates his commitment to success. His willingness to ask questions, seek support, and approach challenges with a "can do" attitude reflects the Resilience and Integrity we celebrate. Jordan's transformation has been inspiring to witness.

Staff Members of the Month



Ms. Ferguson

Elementary Staff of the Month

We are grateful for Ms. Ferguson's exceptional dedication to our students. Though new to our community, she has quickly demonstrated remarkable patience, attentiveness, and commitment to ensuring student learning and growth. Her willingness to listen to student voices and incorporate their input creates an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued. Ms. Ferguson sets high expectations while providing the support students need to succeed—embodying the excellence that defines Mary M. Knight.



Mr. Plaisance

Secondary Staff of the Month

Mr. Plaisance is recognized by our students for his exceptional positivity, clear communication, and steadfast reliability. He maintains the highest standards of classroom organization and consistently honors his commitments to students. His genuine interest in students' well-being, coupled with his willingness to go above and beyond to provide support, creates an atmosphere where students feel encouraged and seen. Mr. Plaisance's infectious optimism and dedication make him a tremendous asset to our school community.