

Mary M. Knight

November Students and Staff of the Month

Celebrating GRIT with Willingness and Resilience

"Never Give Up—Bounce Back with Determination"

This November, Mary M. Knight celebrates GRIT with Willingness and Resilience as we emphasize determination, perseverance, and the courage to keep trying even when things get tough. Our focus on bouncing back from setbacks and embracing productive struggle reflects our commitment to building resilient learners and problem-solvers across our entire community. When students and staff demonstrate GRIT—Growth, Resilience, Initiative, and Tenacity—they showcase the willingness to tackle challenges head-on, learn from mistakes, and support one another through difficult tasks. Whether it's asking for help in kind ways, trying again after making mistakes, persisting through tough topics, or stepping up to help peers, these are the hallmarks of true resilience. By embracing GRIT and willingness in our learning, we create a culture where struggle becomes a pathway to growth and continuous improvement becomes our shared mission.

Elementary Students of the Month



Carmyn McCartney

Pre-School

Carmyn bounces back from setbacks with determination, reviewing her work and making corrections with pride in her learning. She demonstrates GRIT by taking great care with her writing and consistently working on letter sounds through Phonercise. Her willingness to practice and persevere through challenges shows what it means to own your resilience and take responsibility for your growth.



Leo Larson

Kindergarten

Leo consistently shows willingness and determination by engaging in productive struggle and persisting through learning challenges. He strives to try on his own before asking for help and accepts help when needed. Leo has increasingly started supporting his peers by offering encouragement and explanation rather than doing the work for them, demonstrating both resilience and leadership.



Jasper Garner

1st Grade

Jasper never gives up! He keeps trying even when work is tough, asks for help in kind and respectful ways, and bounces back with a smile after mistakes. His positive attitude and willingness to persevere through challenges demonstrate true GRIT and resilience. Jasper's hard work and determination make him an outstanding role model for never giving up.



Haiden Franco

2nd Grade

During the month of November, Haiden has shown impressive willingness and resilience in both PE and Music. He consistently approached activities with a positive attitude, even when tasks were new or challenging. Haiden demonstrated GRIT by trying again after mistakes, staying focused, and putting in strong effort during skill practice. His determination to learn and improve makes him an exceptional example of never giving up.



Goldie Krumland

3rd Grade

Goldie is always such a positive light in her class and demonstrates willingness and resilience through her actions. She is always looking for ways to help others whenever possible and demonstrates gratitude on a daily basis by choosing kindness and education. Her positive attitude and initiative to support her peers embody the GRIT values we celebrate and inspire those around her.



Luna Jones

4th Grade

Luna shows exceptional resilience by tackling tough tasks and smoothly rejoining classroom routines. She learns new things quickly, asks thoughtful questions, and eagerly tries new strategies until she is successful. Luna lifts up her classmates by offering help and encouragement when they need it, demonstrating GRIT through both personal perseverance and willingness to support others.



Jackson Stevenson

5th Grade

Jackson perseveres through difficult activities with a high level of curiosity for learning. He demonstrates GRIT by consistently checking in on his assignments and asking for feedback. He makes corrections as needed and takes them in stride, showing true resilience. It is evident that Jackson takes pride in his work and deeply cares about his learning. Way to be resilient and never give up, Jackson!



Avery Lohman

6th Grade

Avery has been showing exceptional Resilience each day by working hard and staying focused while navigating daily distractions. She participates fully in all subjects, seeks help when needed, and persists in her work and learning. Avery's willingness to embrace challenges and her determination to succeed embody the GRIT mindset we celebrate.

Secondary Students of the Month



Amberlynn Gutierrez Temertizo

7th Grade

Amberlynn is a quiet student who diligently works through her assignments with quiet tenacity. Even through tough topics, she has demonstrated exceptional persistence, GRIT, and an unwavering will to succeed. Her quiet determination and willingness to persevere serve as a powerful reminder that resilience doesn't always look loud—it looks like showing up and never giving up.



Layla VanBoven

8th Grade

Layla continues to seek out help to improve her schoolwork, demonstrating GRIT and a willingness to learn. She makes appropriate corrections to meet standards and shows true resilience in her academic pursuits. More importantly, Layla is always willing to help others with both academic and emotional support, exemplifying the spirit of bouncing back and lifting others up. She is a great contributor to the 8th grade community.



Tarin Lovejoy

9th Grade

Tarin demonstrated outstanding determination and resilience by stepping up at the last minute to support the senior class and PTO Concessions. Although all available seniors were busy, Tarin volunteered without hesitation to fill a critical gap. His willingness to take on unexpected challenges, stay engaged with difficult tasks, and help others demonstrates exceptional GRIT and a strong commitment to his school community. Tarin's actions exemplify bouncing back from setbacks and helping peers—the very essence of resilience and leadership.



Colton Gage-Brix

10th Grade

Colton is doing an outstanding job in Math Lab, demonstrating exceptional GRIT and determination! He has already passed 40 skills this semester and is on pace to exceed 50. When he hits a challenge, he doesn't give up—he looks back at his errors, learns from them, and makes corrections with persistence. Colton is also a positive presence in class, encouraging his classmates and helping explain ideas when asked, embodying both resilience and leadership.



Noland Baughman

12th Grade

Noland's positive attitude and innate persistence allow him to push beyond the boundaries others place on him. Even when life knocks him down or frustrations arise, he gets back up with greater determination than before. Because of this exceptional GRIT and resilience, he is beginning Running Start next semester, is well on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout, and is on track to graduate this spring. His unwavering willingness to persevere serves as an inspiration to all.

Staff Members of the Month



Ms. Bingham

Staff Member of the Month

Ms. Bingham exemplifies the GRIT values we celebrate this month through her unwavering commitment to student learning and growth. Students recognized her exceptional dedication to helping them develop independence and problem-solving skills.

One student captured her approach perfectly: "Ms. Bingham is very dedicated to helping students learn, keeps trying with them until they understand, helps them but doesn't do the work for them. She is good at keeping everyone on task and respectful while still keeping things fun in the classroom." This statement highlights multiple resilience attributes—her persistence with every student, her ability to scaffold learning rather than provide easy answers, and her skill in maintaining a positive, engaging classroom environment.

Another student noted that she "Helps You Learn Through Struggle," directly connecting her teaching style to our core values. Ms. Bingham understands that true learning happens when students work through challenges, and she creates the conditions for that growth to occur. Students also noted that she "showed out owl spirit" and demonstrated brightness and dedication in her daily work.

Her ability to balance rigor with support, to push students while making them feel capable, and to maintain a respectful yet fun learning environment makes her a worthy recipient of this month's recognition. Congratulations, Ms. Bingham, for modeling what it means to be willing and resilient in service of student learning!



Mr. Kerr

Honorable Mention

Mr. Kerr deserves recognition this month for demonstrating exceptional resilience in a unique and demanding way. Students appreciate the many hats he wears and the dedication he brings to each role. One student noted: "He is always a great teacher and has to juggle being the football coach, the sports director, and a teacher." This observation highlights Mr. Kerr's willingness to take on multiple responsibilities and his resilience in managing the competing demands of classroom instruction, athletic leadership, and program coordination.

Students also recognized his supportive teaching approach, sharing that "he gives us time to study for tests and makes learning new sports fun." This shows his willingness to adapt his instruction to meet student needs and his commitment to making challenging content accessible and engaging. His coaching success was celebrated by students who appreciated that "he got us to the championship game"—a testament to his persistence, strategic thinking, and refusal to give up on his team.

Mr. Kerr's ability to maintain high expectations across multiple contexts while staying calm, supportive, and positive makes him an excellent example of willingness with resilience. Thank you, Mr. Kerr, for your dedication to our students and school community!



Mrs. McCartney

Staff Honorable Mention

Tiara, you are our school superhero! Your students see everything you do, from helping kids get on the right bus to finding clothes and supplies when they're needed, to taking care of bumps and bruises with ice packs and kindness. No matter what the day brings, you are always ready to help. You show up when students need you most and handle every situation with grace and care. Your willingness to do whatever it takes to support our students and our school community does not go unnoticed. You truly do it all, and we are so incredibly thankful for you. Your compassion, dedication, and readiness to help make our school a better place for everyone.