

When I was asked to nominate someone from one of my classes, I immediately thought of one student. Then I thought, ok, think a little more. You have so many amazing students. And while that is true...and I'll pause here to say I really am impressed with all of my students. Being new to NMHS, becoming part of the staff and student body community, has been a joy. So being new, I decided to ask more questions about M of the M, what it really means to be awarded this honor, what it should stand for and represent to be handed the document stating that you have been chosen out of the entire student body. When I learned the details of this honor, I knew again that the student who first came to my mind, is entirely deserving. This student is the epitome of dedication, motivation, positivity and enthusiasm when it comes to learning a foreign language. This student started the year in Spanish one as a senior and within a couple weeks, decided he would also like to learn Russian. I knew taking two languages at the same time would be quite a challenge and that starting in on Russian after a few weeks meant being behind his peers on learning the Cyrillic alphabet and that it would take extreme dedication to catch up. Within days the alphabet was learned. I use Duolingo as my base curriculum in both Russian and Spanish which means spending time each day completing assignments. It didn't take long at all for this student to have the most points earned in both classes. Beyond his extreme motivation to learn both languages there's also something that makes this young man stand out among his peers and that is how helpful I see him being in both classes, working with classmates and encouraging them. This student comes into my room twice a day, always 100% ready to learn more.

I asked other allied arts teachers to share about this young man and received these comments:

"This Hooded Crusader may hide in the shadows, only to surprise his peers with his drier sense of humor and wit. Apparently with x-ray vision, his insight to the texts we're reading in Senior Seminar is unparalleled. He begins everyday by passing out his kryptonite to the entire class, which is actually an extra large pack of gum, so that he may share the wealth, Bruce Wayne-style. This Marauder of the Month is truly a hero in Mr. O'Grady's first period class!"

From another teacher, "He has another superpower...he can solve a puzzle faster than I can take attendance! He is a hard worker and good team member. I truly enjoy all his contributions to the Computer Science Principles class this year.

Recently I found out that this student is creating an app for his computer science class where students can learn Spanish and Russian.

And finally, from his TA advisor: He is a joy to have in TA! Though sometimes he likes to "fly under the radar", he's always a good go-to when we need some pick me up music and definitely when Sellars is struggling with technology. It excites me to see what awesome things this Marauder of the Month will accomplish in life!!

And so it seems clear that this student is the correct choice to represent Allied Arts. We are so pleased and proud to award the November Marauder of the Month to Joey Erickson.