

6th Grade

The 6th grade team is proud to announce **Derek Cortese** as our Soaring Eagle for October! Derek is a dedicated and reliable student who models excellence both inside and outside the classroom. He tackles new challenges with confidence and determination, constantly striving to grow as a learner. A collaborative teammate and respectful peer, Derek leads by example through his active listening, encouragement of others, and willingness to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Derek is exceptionally kind, helpful, and inclusive, making sure everyone around him feels welcomed and valued. His integrity, positive energy, and commitment to doing his best every day make our school community a better place. Congratulations Derek!

7th Grade

The 7th Grade Team is proud to recognize **Nora Hay** as our October Soaring Eagle! Nora is the kind of student who truly does it all and does it with kindness, creativity, humor, and heart. She is smart, hardworking, and incredibly diligent about her academics. Nora is an active participant in class, works wonderfully with others, and is a natural leader. She treats her friends and peers with kindness and empathy and is always someone others can count on.

Nora's talents extend far beyond the classroom! She is a dedicated athlete who participates in cross country, girls wrestling, and girls track. Her hard work and determination in wrestling even earned her a spot as a state qualifier!

Music is also a huge part of Nora's life. She has played the viola since fourth grade and is a vital member of the MSS Orchestra. But the viola is only the beginning! Nora also sings, plays guitar, writes her own songs, and is even starting a band with her sisters Georgia and Fiona.

When she isn't studying, competing, or making music, Nora loves creating. She can craft with just about any material she can get her hands on and is also an avid baker whose specialty is chocolate chip cookies. And if all of that weren't enough, Nora has another hidden talent: she can imitate accents and do celebrity impersonations, just one more example of the hilarious personality that makes her so much fun to be around!

Creative, empathetic, funny, hardworking, and kind, Nora brings so much to the Middle School South community. She is a wonderful friend, a strong leader, and a true example of what it means to be a Soaring Eagle.

Congratulations, Nora! We are so proud to have you represent Middle School South!

8th Grade

We are happy to recommend **Ethan Pushansky** for the 8th grade Soaring Eagle Award this month. Ethan is a friendly, responsible, and engaged learner who brings a calm and positive presence to the classroom. He listens well, communicates respectfully, and works especially well with others. Ethan is always willing to help his classmates and makes sure others feel included and supported. He takes responsibility for his learning, works through challenges, and is open to feedback. His strong collaboration skills, kindness, and willingness to grow make him a great example of what it means to be a Soaring Eagle

World Language

We nominate **Kevin Chua** as the Soaring Eagle from the World Language department for the month of October. He is a quiet presence in class, always focused and on task. He completes his work diligently, helps others, and is very respectful. Kevin is a good role model for the students in his class. He can solve problems on his own and work with others effectively. Kevin holds himself to a high standard, never just doing the bare minimum. We appreciate his presence, especially in 9th period French class!

Fine & Applied Arts

We are honored to nominate **Liam Potempa** and **James Mandel** for the Soaring Eagle Award in recognition of their exceptional leadership, empathy, and commitment to creating an inclusive classroom environment.

During a recent project, Liam and James were paired with a peer who demonstrates social/emotional needs. From day one, both Liam and James welcomed this student into their group as a true peer. They consistently demonstrated kindness, patience, and understanding, ensuring that their voice and contributions were valued throughout the entire project.

James and Liam's inclusion and support have had a transformative impact. Since working alongside Liam and James, this student has shown a remarkable shift in confidence; he comes to class happier, feels genuinely included, and now actively seeks out opportunities to participate and help others.

Liam and James exemplary behavior directly reflects our district's mission and vision by demonstrating empathy, fostering community, and empowering every student to succeed. Their actions serve as an inspiring model of peer support and kindness for our entire school community.

Physical Education

The PE department is nominating **Connor ShimPing** for October's Soaring Eagle. Connor is a responsible, hardworking, and kind student who consistently gives his best effort in PE. He comes to class ready to participate, works hard during activities, and always treats his classmates and teachers with respect. Connor is a great teammate who encourages others and demonstrates a positive attitude, even when things are challenging. He treats everyone with kindness and makes an effort to include and support those around him. Connor is also a great role model for his classmates because he consistently demonstrates good sportsmanship and leads by example. His effort, sportsmanship, and kindness make him a great example of what it means to be a Soaring Eagle!