# VIKING SPIRIT AWARDS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

**Raelyn Galatioto (January Winner - 12th Grade)** – "One luxury of teaching both Honors English 9 and Advanced Placement and Composition to seniors is that I always have students at both the beginning of their high school years and at the end of their high school careers, which is a great way for me to see student growth, but more importantly, to see how they've grown as individuals in the three years since I've had them in my classroom.

I vividly remember Raelyn Galatioto as a freshman in Honors English 9; I could tell from our very first interaction that Raelyn wasn't afraid to be herself and share her ideas, even if it wasn't the popular opinion of the class. I definitely consider Raelyn an "outside the box" kind of student, and in my opinion, those are the best kind of students because they willingly put themselves out there and make sure that their voices are heard amidst those students who would rather conform than speak out against the collective.

I admire the fact that Raelyn is secure with who she is when it comes to speaking up for what she believes in, and her ability to enlighten those around her with her astute observations and unwavering opinions has been something that I've seen grow exponentially from her 9th grade year now to her senior year, and I can only hope that her witty, outspoken personality will continue to lead her down the path she plans to go because her independent thinking will help her to reach her goals." *Nominated By: Mrs. Barney, Teacher*

**Emily Francavilla (12th Grade)** – "I was recently approached by Bill Farnsworth to select this month's 12th grade female Student of the Month. Emily's beautiful, smiling face came to mind immediately. I had the pleasure of teaching Emily in Physical Education last semester and look forward to her presence in my class this semester as well. Emily is an outstanding young lady in many aspects. She has an unwavering drive that is present both in her academic and in her personal life. She juggles her academic schedule and her work schedule at Olive Garden with ease and determination. She works extremely hard without complaint. She is very bright and positive and everyone loves to be around her. I had many conversations with Emily and she is not only the type of student you love to have in class but a kind and caring person in general. I hope someday to have a child of my own that is as pleasant, kind, and hardworking as Emily." *Nominated By: Mrs. Neal, Teacher*

**Jerika Griffin (6th Grade)** – "Jerika is the epitome of a model student and is very deserving of the Viking Spirit award. She displays a positive attitude with her warm, welcoming smile to her caring, inquisitive nature. Jerika completes classwork with great attention to detail while often going above and beyond expectations. She sets an example for her classmates by coming to class on time and is always prepared with necessary materials and a willingness to be better than the day before. Jerika puts forth her best effort and has a fantastic attitude toward school, her work, her peers, and her teachers. She truly embodies everything that we are looking for here at MMS and will most certainly be successful in her future years as she continues through middle school and beyond. The positive characteristics she displays on a daily basis would make any teacher or parent proud, she is definitely MMS- Motivated, Mature, and Strong. Jerika, congratulations on your Viking Spirit award! Keep up the superb work!" *Nominated By: Mrs. Welser, Teacher*

**William Jackson (5th Grade - Gardens)** – "William has a smile that lights up the room and he is a friend to everyone! We would take a whole classroom of "William's" any day! Why? He starts and ends each day with a positive attitude. He works hard at everything he does and he is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He loves an "extra" job in the classroom and the school...and if you "hire" William you are assured of a job "well done!!" He helps with the BOSS program weekly. Every Monday, he collects the extra food and the totes school wide. He takes pride in the things he does well and he does not back down from a challenge! William is an expert on horses; both in the knowledge of their care as well as riding them. He is a proud member of the 4-H club. He has a wealth of knowledge about many things that most of us know nothing about. William enjoys school, learning, and being with his friends. He sees all through a positive light and makes those of us around him better people. It's a pleasure and a joy to work with him in any capacity every single day*!!" Nominated By: Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Gallemore and Mrs. Butler, Teachers*

**<u>Logan Chojnacki (5th Grade – Washington)</u> –** "It is with great pride that I nominate Logan Chojnacki for the Viking Spirit Award. Logan is a true example of a student who takes pride in everything he does. He is very focused during instructional and work time and puts all of his energy on performing the task at hand to the best of his ability. Logan can be counted on to not only meet and exceed the classroom expectations, but to also help his classmates stay in line in a very respectful way. Logan is also a valuable member of our school community as a captain of our Safety Patrol, taking his responsibilities seriously and helping others whenever possible. He is someone the staff of Washington Elementary can count on every day and is a great role model for his fellow students. He is so deserving of this recognition. Congratulations Logan!" *Nominated By: Mr. Tanton, Teacher*

**<u>Korbyn Aud (2nd – Morton)</u> – "**I am proud to nominate Korbyn Aud for the "Viking Spirit" Award! Korbyn is a positive, caring student who goes above and beyond to help people in need. He is always willing to lend a helping hand and welcomes others to work and play with him. Korbyn is constantly following the Morton Star Rules of being responsible, respectful, and safe. Korbyn has made impressive gains in the past year with his behavior and academics. He proves to be a leader in the classroom and throughout the school. Morton has been learning about the 7 habits and being leaders. Korbyn is promoting awesome work habits in reading, writing, and math as well as participation in any classroom discussions. I am very proud to have him in my classroom these past 2 years. Keep up the great work Korbyn!" *Nominated By: Mrs. Semrow, Teacher*