

Middletown High School Student of the Week: Julie Burdette

Middletown High School social studies teacher Sean Haardt nominated Julie Burdette to be this week's Student of the Week. Haardt said, "Julie has a great sense of humor, a terrific enthusiasm for learning something new, and always brings a smile with her into the classroom."

Currently, Burdette is enrolled in American Sign Language III, American Studies II, Geometry, and she is also a Student Service Learner for a Unified class. Burdette enjoys being an SSL the most out of all of her classes. "I like that I get to work [with] and help students and the teacher," said Burdette. As an SSL, Burdette primarily assists the kids in the Learning for Life program at MHS, which is "for kids that have disabilities and the aids help them do stuff like laundry, cooking, and dishes." When Burdette is not directly working with the students, she is either setting up equipment or helping transport items from classroom to classroom.

Another favored class of Burdette's is ASL III. Burdette said, "I like learning the language." Burdette chose to take ASL instead of Spanish or French because she felt she would be able to learn and understand a nonverbal language better. Burdette said she is "close" to reaching fluency in ASL.

Throughout her time at MHS, Burdette has appreciated many teachers, including English teachers Debra Leonard and Jennifer Clark. Burdette said these teachers are "not only nice" but they "help their students".

Burdette has also formed a bond with support staff member Nancy Adams, whom she has worked with for the past three years. "She'll help me through the subjects that she is in with me," said Burdette. Adams has also played a crucial role in Burdette's success in mathematics, as it was always a subject Burdette struggled with.

Outside of school, Burdette's main activity is babysitting. Every other weekend, Burdette babysits her one-year-old niece. "She's a good baby," said Burdette.

Other than babysitting, Burdette also spends the majority of her free time reading. Romance and murder mystery are two of Burdette's preferred genres. Burdette said that although they are fiction, the books she has read have helped her "learn more about outside world problems".

Burdette has one older sister, Sarah. "We're close and nice to each other," said Burdette. Together, Burdette and her sister enjoy shopping "anywhere", including the mall.

Other than her sister, Burdette considers her dog Gunner to be one of her close family members. Burdette has had her Pitbull for about three years, and they have formed a tight bond. "He's super sweet," said Burdette. In regards to their preferred activities together, Burdette said she likes to play with her dog and take him on plenty of walks near their home.

In terms of a role model, Burdette said instead of looking up to someone else, she went her own way.

After high school, Burdette said she would like to work for a short time and then go to college. Burdette has hopes to become a nurse because she likes "working with others". Burdette was inspired by her sister to go into nursing, as she is currently studying nursing in college. As a nurse, Burdette wishes to work with newborn babies in nurseries. "I have a really big soft spot for young children and babies," added Burdette. Although Burdette is unsure of where she would like to attend school, she definitely desires to earn a degree.