



CLASS OF 2018

CRUSADER OF THE MONTH

Zachary Nathaniel Fooks

MONTH HONORED: May 2018

Zach was selected by Mr. Russel VanderWier

Grit...as defined by Merriam-Webster is a "firmness of mind or spirit: unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger." It also is a word that succinctly describes one trait of the May Student of the Month, Zachary "Speed Pony" Fooks.

Zach is the son of David and Robin Fooks. Zach has been a member of the National Honor Society for the last three years. Beginning this fall, Zach will be serving our country in the United States Air Force. He is planning to enter into special ops, focusing on Para-rescue medical and extraction.

When it comes to community involvement, Zach is there to lend a hand to those in need. This year Speed donated his time and resources to raise funds for Kids Food Basket by making and selling cotton candy, an endeavor which proved to be very successful.

His interests and activities include paintball, baseball, biking, gaming, and exploring in the woods.

Let me revisit the word, grit. Grit is about passion and perseverance. Grit's core characteristics are courage, conscientiousness, endurance, resilience and excellence.

Zach has exhibited courage on the playing field, in the classroom and the in the arts. He sees failure not as an end result, but as a stepping stone to excellence. Zach had the courage to try out for the play this year, and he landed the title role of Charlie Brown. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Do something that scares you every day". Stepping outside of his comfort zone and trying out for the play embodies the meaning of this quote.

When it comes to conscientiousness, Zach puts forth effort that is careful and meticulous. In gym class, Speed is the first one dressed and prepared for class. He has a genuine interest in the day's activities and always gives 110%. He is competitive, yet still he encourages and motivates those around him to do their best.

I have confidence that Zach's endurance will help him achieve his long-term goals because he keeps his eyes on the prize and his persistence will not yield to new challenges.

Zach is resilient. When things don't go his way in the art room, he gets back to the proverbial and literal drawing board to find novel solutions to difficult problems. His tenacity permeates all of his endeavors, and his optimism and confidence help him achieve his goals.

Lastly, when it comes to excellence, Zach chooses excellence over perfection. While perfection is important, it is also unwavering, unforgiving and inflexible. Perfection is needed in the development of standards, but it is generally someone else's ideal. Excellence is more forgiving. Excellence is an attitude that allows for growth. Excellence is seeking, striving and improvement. Congratulations Speed, and best of luck to you in all that you do.



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Jarod Aron Barclay

MONTH HONORED: May 2018

Jarod was selected by Mrs. Katie Welch

Jarod is an amazing student. Even at a time when seniors are itching to get out of school, Jarod is able to maintain his focus and work hard, right up to the end. Jarod lives up to the characteristics of character, compassion, service, and commitment. His quiet self-control makes him my choice for Student of the Month.

Jarod can be counted on by his teachers to do what is necessary, when it is necessary. He has been described as a "**silent, humble gentleman.**" In a world where things are noisy, voices can be loud, and opinions can be overwhelming, it is refreshing to be around a person like Jarod. He is a "calm in the storm."

Not only does Jarod always smile and say hi in the hallway to me as one of his current teachers, he also addresses teachers from his past. His family makes homemade candy, and gives this as a gift to many of his past teachers - something that is so appreciated. Even when a student leaves us, we never forget them, and we appreciate when a student remembers us too. Thank you Jarod, for not forgetting the teachers who love you.

Jarod is a member of National Honor Society. He played soccer for three years at MCC and currently is on the MCC golf team. He has worked every fish fry for the past four years and has worked with the MCC maintenance staff over the past few summers helping to maintain the building in which he proudly attends. He is an Eagle Scout and has done many projects and fundraisers as a Scout – most recently building the MCC soccer field concession stand.

When Jarod is not reading a book, he is listening to music. He has been in the band since sixth grade playing percussion. Jarod also enjoys chemistry and plans to study either music or chemistry at Grand Valley State University.

Jarod is the son of Timothy and Kimberly Barclay and attends St. Mary's Parish in Muskegon.