

Youth Spotlights

Mikayla Mercier

In September 2017, an exciting academic journey began for Tribal youth Mikayla Mercier. It was during this time that the fifth-grader attended her first week of classes at Sheridan Japanese School, a public charter school not too far from Grand Ronde.

Spending time in a cultural and language immersion classroom was nothing new to Mikayla as she had spent several years at the Tribal Preschool and K-3 Language Immersion programs. While in the Tribal programs, Mikayla excelled at speaking, writing and learning Chinuk Wawa. She continues to be one of the more fluent Chinuk Wawa speakers in her peer group.

This semester Mikayla is being selected to represent the Youth Education Elementary K-5 Program in the *Smoke Signals* Student Spotlight. Her dedication to expanding her academic knowledge, use of positive social skills, and demonstrating hard-working study habits are just a few of the traits that have led her to a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

At Sheridan Japanese School, Mikayla enjoys her science class where she is learning about the Earth and astronomy. Another one of her favorite classes is Beginning Japanese. In this class she practices sounds and words, including the formation of simple and useful sentences. Her favorite elective class is singing in the school’s choir.

When asked about Mikayla’s schooling, her mother Tiffany Mercier said: “She does it (the schoolwork) all on her own. We couldn’t be more proud of her hard work!”

When asked how she’d make the world a better place, Mikayla responded, “Some people don’t know why they should go to school. I hope to someday do something to help people understand why it’s important.”

In her spare time, the busy 10-year-old likes to sing pop music, create artwork with color pencil drawings, practice powwow dancing at K-5 Afterschool, play basketball and practice rifle shooting with her father, Tribal member Colby Mercier.

One day Mikayla hopes to go on her first hunt, travel to Italy with her family and maybe visit Japan with other Sheridan Japanese School students and teachers when she is in high school. As far as settling on a career choice, Mikayla said that someday she might want to be a famous artist, singer, geologist or astronomer.

— written by Matt Bucknell



Mikayla Mercier

Mason Mercier

Grade: 7

Reason: Academic excellence

Activities: Basketball and football

Plans after high school: I want to go to college; hopefully at Oregon State. I don’t know what I want to study yet.

From: Grand Ronde

Reasons behind academic success: My dad taught me a good work ethic.

Advice to anyone who might struggle in school: Don’t care about what anyone else is doing. Just care about what you need to do so that you can get your work done.

From Youth Education: We wanted to recognize Mason this month for not only his academic excellence, but also his upstanding character and outstanding work ethic. Mason is always proactive with his school work, staying on top of his grades, and consistently achieving high results. Faculty and staff have nothing but positive things to say about Mason’s kindness and work ethic. We are so impressed with Mason’s ability to be responsible and accountable for his school work while balancing his athletics and after-school activities. Keep up the good work, Mason!

– written by Dominique Olson



Mason Mercier

Amaryssa Mooney

Amaryssa Mooney is a freshman at Willamina High School and is being recognized for her academic excellence, leadership skills and optimistic attitude.

Achieving and maintaining a 3.5 GPA is no easy task while juggling school, softball, volleyball and powwow dancing.

Amaryssa’s reasons for her academic success are in her own words, “I’m determined to get work done and when it does, it feels good because I have relief on my shoulders.”

Showing a can-do attitude and a fantastic work ethic. Amaryssa’s plans for after high school are to attend the University of Oregon to play softball and to become a teacher for preschool and kindergarten students.

Amaryssa’s advice for any students who struggle in school is “get as much help as you need, focus hard on work and push to your standards.” Amaryssa’s final words to her fellow students are “play hard or go home guys.”

– written by Vincent Chargualaf



Amaryssa Mooney



LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.

(closed Monday - Friday: noon – 1 P.M.)

Saturday: 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Winter Reading Incentive Program runs Feb. 28: “Get Fired Up for Reading” and help build the Tribal Library dragon. For every book read we will add a dragon scale with the reader’s name and book title on it. The more books read equals a larger dragon. This program is for all ages. Let us know which books you read in February so we can add a scale. Our goal is 300 books read.

Reminder: Donated items must be clean and in good condition.

Inter-library loan services: The Tribal Library partners with Oregon State Library to offer “library to library” inter-library loan services. By completing the inter-library loan form, library patrons may request items from Oregon State Library collection. Items will be couriered to and from the Tribal Library. OSL lending policies apply for return of items.

