

THE GROWL

the voice of Mexico High School

May 15, 2022
Volume 1 Issue 8

ROLE MODELS

Everyday heroes are everywhere at MHS. Not just teachers, or staff or faculty - students look to each other for guidance, for inspiration, for leadership. In this edition of *The Growl*, the staff introduces you to their heroes, which we agreed, if you see them every single day, they are role models.



Senior Bailey Crum selected instructor Wade Aldridge as his role model:
What motivates you?
My motivation primarily comes from the desire to help people, and just the desire to do a good job
Who is your role model and why?
I don't really have one currently; its kind of self-ish but I could say myself because I'm the only member of my family to get this far in life. So I look to myself for what to do next.
What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
My second year teaching was the hardest because we lost a member of faculty halfway through the year. I had to take over the band at both the middle school and high school. Keeping the emotional wellbeing of 100-something students was pretty challenging.



Freshman Bre'Asia Estill selected senior Rylee Johnson as her role model:
What motivates you?
What motivates me is working towards my future and being successful.
Who is your role model and why?
My mom is my role model because she always has a positive mindset about everything she does, even when things get tough.
What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
My hardest year was my junior year and I learned that I needed to have better time management skills and work harder if I wanted to get where I wanted to be.



Junior Ally Wilson chose fellow junior, Mekhi Owens. "He is very outgoing, determined, driven and funny. No matter what Mekhi goes through, he still has a positive attitude about life and school," Wilson explained her choice.
What motivates you?
Getting good grades motivates me because I know that in the end it will pay off no matter what I choose to do.
Who is your role model and why?
My role model is Jeff Bezos because he is very rich and successful.
What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
Sophomore year was my hardest year of high-school because everything was still very new. Freshman year we weren't really in school because of Covid. That didn't allow us to get the full highschool experience so when we came back it was like starting highschool all over again.



Junior Messiah Simpson chose class-mate and fellow junior Jordan Shelton.
"I chose Jordan as a person I admire because he's a tough guy. He's always locked in with everything he does, He's always been someone that I could talk to and he's a great listener," Simpson explained.
What motivates you?
My grandma motivates me because she is the person I love the most.
Who is your role model and why?
"Damian Lillard is someone who inspires me. I've loved watching him play since I was little.
What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
Freshman year was my hardest year because of Covid I couldn't really get a full experience of what being a freshman was like."

role model
a person looked to by others as an
example to be imitated

Freshman Emily Smith chose Ms. Shannon Moore as her role model.

What motivates you?
What motivates me is helping students reach their full potential and being a positive role model in their lives.

Who is your role model?
Definately my mom! She was the best mom and best teacher that I have ever known. She was very loving, but stern.

What has been the hardest year for you at MHS and how did you handle it?
The hardest year would be this year, battling health problems due to Covid. Basically starting the school year with oxygen and a walker and not feeling as physical as normal. I had amazing support from my students and colleagues and I knew I couldn't give up.



Shannon Moore

Freshman Myah Smith selected instructor Kendra Murphy.

What motivates you?
"I am motivated when I can see results happen or are happening. Most of the time I am self-motivated because I can't allow myself to give less than my best and I hate disappointing people,"

Who is your role model and why?
"My mom because she was the best mom ever. She loved me unconditionally and made sure I knew that with both her words and her actions,"

What was your hardest year and what did you learn from it?
"My hardest year was 2020 because my mom unexpectedly died of cancer. I learned that you never know when life on Earth will be over so make sure the ones you love and don't take the time you have with them for granted."



Kendra Murphy



Riley Thurman

Junior Capri'Ona Fountain chose senior Riley Thurman as her role model.

"She is one individual that stands out of the crowd to me. Riley is the type of person who does her own thing and believes what she wants to believe she doesn't follow the "crowd," Fountain explains. She also admires Thurman's determination and the fact that she gives 100 percent into things that will make her become successful.

What motivates you?
Something that motivates me would be my future because I just want to make as many people proud of me.

Who is your role model?
My role model would have to be my mom, she takes good care of everything and handles her struggles maturely and well.

What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
Senior year would have to be my hardest year because everything is ending and you just want to be able to make the most of it. I learned to be grateful for every moment because everything flies by.



CLAIRE HUDSON

Junior Elias Owens selected junior Claire Hudson as his role-model. "I chose Claire Hudson for my remodel because I just admire how selfless she is and how much pride she takes in her school life and her outside life," explained Owens.He also describes her as a great team player and the type of people he wants to surround him.

What motivates you?
What motivates me the most is getting good grades and doing well in school so I can be able to play basketball.

Who is your rolemodel?
My mom is my remodel because she motivates me to be like her.

What year was your hardest and what did you learn from it?
My hardest year would have to be this year. It was kind of hard adjusting but I was welcomed with open arms.



Taylor DeMint

Junior Lexie Willer chose senior Taylor DeMint as her role model. "I love how she doesn't care about what people think about her. She says her opinion freely without a care in the world, and I hope to be that bold someday," Willer said.

What motivates you?
My motivation is my parents because they push me to have a good future and I do not want to disappoint them. I want them to be proud that I am their daughter.

Who is your role model?
My role model is my mom because of her work ethic and I strive to have her success in my future.

What was your hardest year and what did you learn from it?
My hardest year of high school was Junior year because it was my first time taking college classes. I also had to balance Covid rules and regulations with classes and sports.

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THE GROWL

The Growl is the student newspaper of Mexico High School. It produced by the journalism students under the advisement of Ms. Jami Williams, instructor. The Growl is produced and distributed on the last Wednesday of each month through The Mexico Ledger. For advertising information please call: 573.581.4296 x. 2726 during school hours.

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|-------------------|-----------------|
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| Bailey Crum | Emily Smith |
| BreAsia Estill | Myah Smith |
| Jackson Lamb | Gage Walker |
| Hailey Long | Madison Wheaton |
| Kambrya Merriman | Dakota White |

Freshman Hailey Long finds her role-model in speech and theatre instructor Ms. Sara Given.

Who motivates you?

Probably the better question is what and who. I am driven by an internal need for success. But, not so much success for myself as it is success for my students. When I am able to see growth in students, and when I am able to see students achieve their own personal successes, I am motivated to keep doing what I am doing. Side note: Each student is different. Each student has different levels of ability, different goals, different approaches and different backgrounds. Therefore, helping students achieve success comes in a variety of ways. I enjoy seeing my students find their personal successes.

Who is your role model?

My mom and dad were both very good and very compassionate teachers. For education in general, and for life choices I consider them to be my role models. For speech & theatre specifically, I had one of the best theatre teachers (now friend). Joel Short was my high school theatre teacher and mentor. I think of him often and would consider him to be my greatest theatre role model.

An honest side note: there is a teacher in my speech & theatre background that is the opposite of a role model. However, the negative way he approached things inspires me to NOT be like him. So, in some twisted universe, he motivates me to be a better teacher, coach, director and human than he was.

What was your hardest year and what did you learn from it?

This is a tough question. Girl... I've taught for 28 years! lol. Probably the hardest year of my career was 2020. The one act play had some of the best student led designs and acting that we had had in years and the readers was one with a very strong message and super talented performers. Both groups qualified to State and then the world shut down. So, they didn't get to go. But, it wasn't hard because we didn't get to go to State. It was hard, because my students didn't get to share

their powerful messages and didn't get to continue to grow in their art. COVID quarantine shut down the arts for awhile. It was hard to find our way back to normalcy. However, I guess what I learned was that when we are driven, we are motivated to experiment and try new approaches to things. Our art form became a different kind of creative. My teaching became a different kind of teaching. It forced me to get out of my comfort zone with technology and to find new ways for actors and designers to be creative.



Sara Given

Junior Jordan Shelton chose senior Michael White as his role model. "He inspires me to be great and is a very athletic person that wants to be something big one day just like I do.

Who motivates you?

I am inspired by my mom. I hope to make her proud of me one day.

Who is your role model?


My grandma is my role model. I wish she could be here to see me do all the big things I'm planning on doing.

What was your hardest year of high school and what did you learn from it?

My senior year was the hardest year because of college and not knowing what I really want to do after high school.



MICHAEL WHITE



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Freshman Gage WalkerI chose Haden Frazier as his role mode. “He never gives up on what he wants to accomplish and he is a great person to-ward everyone no matter who they are. I look up to Haden in not just soccer but in life in general because he’s just an all-around good guy.”

What motivates you?

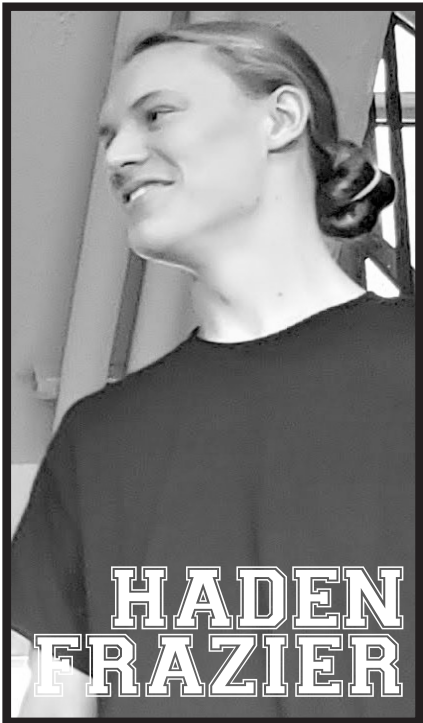
What motivates me is the thought of trying to be the best at what I do.

Who is your role model?

My role model is probably my brother Grady. He has always been a good influence on me and continues to teach me things that I find useful.

What was your hardest year of high school and what did you learn from it?

My hardest year was my junior year. I was play-ing soccer and tennis at a higher level than I ever had and the classes I took were much harder than the previous ones.”



Freshman Kambreya Merriman chose grad-uating junior Mariah McCann as her role model.

“Even though Mariah has been through a lot she still has been very successful in he aca-demics. She has a 3.8 GPA and is graduating early as a junior,” Merriman explained.

McCann has been on the cheer team since seventh grade and has had multiple college scholarships because of her abilities and academics.

“She has been through a lot mentally but she still has not let that effect how she does in school. Mariah has helped me countless times and has given me advice on how to deal with it. Mariah and I have quickly become close as friends and I would not choose anyone else to look up to.”



Junior Jackson Lamb chose instructor Tony Senor as his role model.

Who is your role model and why?

Gayle Adams because he has set a model of leader-ship in wrestling and as a coach.

What motivates you?

My desire to help students to reach the potential that might not see in themselves.

What was your hardest year and what did you learn from it?


Junior year because the academics were harder and I decided not to make the best life choices . I regret quitting football and band.



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