

HOMETOWN HERO:

Kristina Dennsteadt

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At Marley Elementary School, Ms. Dennsteadt is a Hometown Hero for a second grade student on the Autism Spectrum. With dedication and poise, Ms. Dennsteadt has embraced the challenges of educating a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in her regular education classroom. However, when you speak with Ms. Dennsteadt, she does not discuss the challenges presented by this student. Instead, she tells you about his personal growth and articulates his strengths. Within our school community, Ms. Dennsteadt regularly advocates for him and works with colleagues to provide nurturing routines and successful accommodations that support his success.

By nature, Ms. Dennsteadt is an optimist. Professionally, she is reflective about her practices. Her analysis of his successes and areas of need result in accommodations and modifications that enhance his success throughout the entire school community. Throughout her work, it is apparent that Ms. Dennsteadt is doggedly determined to utilize students’ strengths to maximize their academic achievement. These attributes increase the success of all students; however, throughout this year, they have consistently enhanced the performance of her ASD student.

At Marley Elementary School, we are proud of Ms. Dennsteadt’s accomplishments and hope that the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Autism Society of America will join us by recognizing her as a Hometown Hero for ASD.