

HOMETOWN HERO:

Kerry McAndrew

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Kerry McAndrew is a special education teacher at Marley Elementary School whose caseload includes students with autism. Throughout her tenure at Marley, Ms. McAndrew has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to students on the autism spectrum. There is truly nothing that has been asked by her colleagues, students’ parents, administrators, or students, that has been too much for Ms. McAndrew to do to support her ASD students. If they need a fan, she gets a fan. If someone needs headphones, she gets headphones. When someone else needed a quiet spot, she made a special area within her classroom. If you have the privilege of being at Marley Elementary School during a fire drill, only those with special knowledge would know that Ms. McAndrew’s charge is to take all of our oversensitive friends outside before the siren rages. Our friends are much happier because Ms. McAndrew makes the special effort to meet their needs.

Ms. McAndrew also takes a proactive approach in meeting the social, emotional and academic needs of students on the spectrum. She collaborates with her regular education colleagues to help them better understand the unique needs of her students on the spectrum and provides strategies to support their success within the general education classroom. Ms. McAndrew frequently co-teaches with her regular education colleagues, and even to the skilled observer, it is often difficult to discern who is the special and who is the general educator. The professional skills within our school community are growing due to Ms. McAndrew’s effective collaboration with our staff.

Ms. McAndrew’s is a Hometown Hero at Marley Elementary School. Her passion for students on the autism spectrum establishes a network of support not only for our students but also for their families. I am speaking for our entire school community in expressing gratitude for her dedication and commitment to the success of our students on the autism spectrum.