

HOMETOWN HERO:

Christine Winstanley

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Chris Winstanley is the special education teacher in the Multiple Intensive Needs Classroom (MINC) at Marley Elementary School. While Mrs. Winstanley’s classroom includes students with many educational disabilities, it is for her work with one student on the autism spectrum that I feel she deserves this nomination. Mrs. Winstanley welcomed her new student to her classroom in January. The effort and care that she made to not only to welcome this student to her classroom, but also the professional resources that she collected to support his social and academic growth are noteworthy. From the minute Mrs. Winstanley learned this student was coming, she gathered resources, consulted with colleagues, and committed countless hours to planning for his success. In the months since January, her student’s potential is starting to show. He is now exhibiting emerging skills such as greeting adults with, ‘Hi,’ and making his wishes known.

In addition to working with the student, Mrs. Winstanley is doing an outstanding job of training the student’s assistant to maximize his social and academic growth throughout the school day. Mrs. Winstanley has been able to do this without detracting from her work with other students. It’s as if her extra commitment to her student with autism has allowed more hours to be added to her day.

While Mrs. Winstanley has made the transition look easy, we all realize that this effort required a true personal and professional commitment. For her extra effort and successes working with her new student, I believe Mrs. Winstanley is a Hometown Hero.