

Q: Who is your hero, and why?



My hero is Barack Obama because he is a pioneer in so many ways. He is America's first black president for one, and has taken firm stances on many issues that have not been seriously acted on before, such as his effort toward universal health care. Although I don't want to go into politics as a career, his example as a pioneer is one that I would like to emulate.

—Robert Cosgrove, junior
Albany High School



My hero is my coach. He encourages me to push myself to the limit. He shares more than just sports drills. He shares advice and people skills, and has a dedication that spreads to the rest of us. He also is very caring and responsible. He checks up on my grades all the time. The biggest thing he has done is boost my confidence and make me a better person.

—Donald Gekonge, sixth grade
William S. Hackett Middle School



When you hear the word “hero,” you think about superheroes in comics. To me, a hero is someone that is with you through good times and bad. My parents, Vincent and Yolanda DiSanto, are my heroes. Their patience, kindness and respect for others are all qualities that they instilled in me. Thanks to their examples I can continue to “plant the seeds,” building confidence for a successful future in the young lives of my students.

—Emilia Giorgio, prekindergarten teacher
Giffen Memorial Elementary School



My mom is my hero. She is retiring this year after working as a physical education teacher for the past 41 years. Her dedication to her students, colleagues and community is exceptional. She teaches with enthusiasm and sees the potential in every child. My mom has taught me the importance of education and inspires me to make a positive impact in the lives of all my students.

—Constance Hogan, speech language pathologist
Sheridan Preparatory Academy



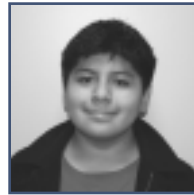
George Washington is a hero of mine. He's a great role model, plus he fought in the American Revolution and won freedom from the British. He also made mistakes, which he changed. He had slaves but freed them because he thought that if the U.S. takes away other people's freedoms because of color and nationality, then why do they deserve to get freedom from the British? Bottom line: treat other people the way you want to be treated.

—Rosemarie Lizardo, fifth grade
New Scotland Elementary School



My hero would have to be my older cousin. He doesn't even know that I look up to him, but I'm glad he's a positive role model of mine. He has already made great accomplishments in his life and influences me to live up to my dreams. He just inspires me to never give up no matter what the circumstances may be. I hope to do as well in the future as my cousin did.

—Kaidy Mendez, sophomore
Albany High School



My mother is one of the most hard-working and selfless persons I have ever met. She inspires me through the actions and decisions she makes. For example, even though she was taking care of five kids, she still chose to go to school and get her bachelor of science. I love my mom because she always tries to help others when they need her and tries to work out problems between people. She never gives up.

—Ronaldo Pintado, sixth grade
Pine Hills Elementary School



I am lucky enough to have two heroes in my life, my mother and my grandmother. They help me achieve my goals and find my way to a brighter future. They teach me right from wrong and always help me with my school work. Without my grandma and mommy, I wouldn't be me. I am proud to have them as my heroes.

—Anisa Wise, seventh grade
Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School