

NCHS Breakfast with Iron Awards – March & April:

March:

Mrs. Addie Ince nominated Michael Carrier

Michael Carrier should be an inspiration to us all. He has persevered through extreme hardships and has changed his academic focus from passing no classes to passing all classes. He is one of the friendliest students in our building. He greets me almost every morning with a smile and positive attitude, and I have seldom heard him complain about anything (with the exception of not getting his license on time ☺). He truly has turned his life around, and I am so proud to nominate him for this award.

Mr. Patrick Lawler nominated Aaron Kiper

Aaron has shown tremendous growth since the beginning of the year. He is very respectful and friendly to adults and peers. He always has a positive attitude and is very willing to be helpful to and work with his fellow classmates. It has been an honor to have Aaron in class the semester. I know he will continue to grow and will accomplish great things.

Mrs. Brandy Sherrick nominated Michelle Cross

I have had Michelle in my class for three years now, and in my opinion, she is the epitome of a true Ironman! Michelle is a loyal and dedicated person, student, and Ironman. She has excellent attendance and comes to school prepared for all of her classes. I feel there are many great qualities about Michelle, but the one that I admire the most is her outstanding work ethic. Michelle is truly one of the hardest working students that I have ever met. When talking to other teachers about Michelle, they all comment on how hardworking she is. Even though Michelle has had many hurdles in her life, she continues to persevere through it all, AND she does it without complaining. Michelle always goes above and beyond in so many ways. Michelle's great work ethic has been a tremendous asset to the girls' basketball team as well for this past year. She was one of the managers for the team and filmed the games for the coaches.

Michelle is truly worthy of her Breakfast with Iron nomination because of her many wonderful qualities that make her a truly fantastic Ironman and young lady!

Mr. Hud Venerable nominated Jenny Menendez

I have known Jenny for three years. She has been a student in my Personal Development and Team P.E. classes. She is, without question, one of the most positive students I have worked with in my career as an educator.

Jenny has achieved success at NCHS in the classroom and on the volleyball court. She will represent the Ironmen well as she moves on to the next level at Illinois State University where she will continue her career as a Division I student-athlete.

Jenny has been a leader in my classes. She is an outstanding communicator who can relate to all people. She will continue to achieve special things next year as a Redbird. Thank you, Jenny, for all you have done for our school.

Mrs. Kevin Vernon nominated John Cargill

In technical theatre there's a saying; if you're really good, no one will notice. The idea is that unlike acting, where drawing attention to yourself is valuable, technical theatre is about the illusion.

It takes a special person to be a techie. There are many long hours, usually well after the actors have gone home. It takes some very specialized skills, and there's almost never applause for the techies. John Cargill is such a special student. His curiosity, worth ethic, and perennially positive attitude are combined with a natural talent for the art and science of the stage. I have never heard him complain, make an excuse, or disrespect any member of the company. He just goes about his job in his quiet and effective way, and I know I can always count on him. True to the techie code, he has never asked for that applause. We're lucky to have John.

April:

Mrs. Sharla Brown-Ajayi nominated Bharggavi Iyengar

I have had the pleasure of knowing Bharggavi Iyengar since her freshmen year. I can't remember the specifics of how we met but once we did, I knew she would be a successful young lady.

Bharggavi worked with me in the main office her freshmen year during her homeroom where her responsibilities included filing and helping with passes. She was a student we knew we could rely on and trust. Bharggavi has always excelled in her classes and has been on the high honor roll the majority of her high school career. She has grown from a shy, yet focused freshman, into a lovely young woman who is beginning one of the most exciting adventures of her life.

Bharggavi possesses self-discipline and perseverance. This is not surprising knowing how she excels academically. What makes Bharggavi even more special to me is her caring heart and her desire to help others. When Bharggavi advances to college next year, she will be studying computer engineering. She also has a life plan for after college that does not just include making lots of money for herself. Bharggavi plans to build schools around the world for those who are less fortunate. It is her desire to give others who do not have a Normal Community in their backyard a chance for a bright future just like hers.

This desire to give back and make a positive contribution to our world, along with her other qualities, make Bharggavi an outstanding Ironman.

Mrs. Heather Budak nominated Julia Gillmeister

I would like to present this Breakfast with Iron award to Julia Gillmeister. Julia moved to Normal, a new student, as a sophomore. Not knowing anyone, she decided to become part of the swim team. It did not take long for Julia's friendly and upbeat personality to come out! Julia can be seen everyday in the halls and in the pool smiling and making the best of every situation. She is a member of the student council, and is always willing to help out. She is part of the Inkspot where she tackles her assignments with a new perspective each week. Julia is happy to give an encouraging word when someone needs a lift.

Normal Community is a better place with Julia in the halls, in the classrooms, and in the pool. We are fortunate to be the school where she is spending her high school years. For these reasons, I would like to present Julia Gillmeister with this Breakfast with Iron award.

Mr. Tyler McWhorter nominated Katy Lehnen

To nominate Katy Lehnen for Breakfast with Iron is a great honor, but not near as great as the honor it has been to have her in class this year. Katy is in my ALC Combo and is impressively able to shift effortlessly from adept literary analyst to something that borders on class comedian. Katy enters the room every day with a smile on her face and a willingness to learn and then often leads the class in discussions and activities (without ever acknowledging that her understanding of the course material is notably above most of her peers). She is outgoing and humble, funny and smart, reliable and relatable. Katy sees the world from a unique perspective and has been an incredible asset to our class this year.

Mrs. Jill Trickett nominated Eric Nielsen

Eric Nielsen is a good student with a great attitude. Eric has been a monitor in the main office has always proven to be dependable and pleasant to work with. He has given much of himself to NCHS, including his involvement in FCC here at school. He is also attending classes at Heartland Community College and is involved in several community services. He is part of the McLean County Emergency Management, as well as the Bloomington Police Explorers. Eric is also very involved in the Bowl-A-Thon for Rachel Vincent. He is a pleasure to talk with and to have around. Congratulations, Eric!