



2023
CENTRAL NEW YORK
DEAF/HH
TEENS
9TH EDITION

*EDUCATION IS OUR PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW
BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY.*

MALCOLM X

HEARINGLIKEME.COM

HearingLikeMe.com is an online community for people whose lives are affected by hearing loss. We bring together people from all around the world to share stories that inspire hope in almost any hearing loss situation.

We created this site with a simple idea: Sharing our hearing loss stories with one another is a powerful thing. Together, we can learn to live with hearing loss more successfully and advocate in a more meaningful way.

www.hearinglikeme.com

NTID- NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

Deaf and hard-of-hearing students at RIT/NTID receive a world-class private university education at a public college price, unparalleled educational support services, dynamic academic programs that reflect the needs of the marketplace, and unmatched support in starting a career.

www.ntid.rit.edu

CROS SYSTEM

The CROS system is designed for single-sided deafness. It wirelessly sends the sound from the side where you cannot hear to your better hearing ear.

www.phonak.com/us/en/hearing-aids/phonak-cros-ii.html

THE CLERC CENTER

The Clerc Center is thrilled to announce that the K-12 ASL Content Standards are ready. On the website, you will see Anchor Standards, grade-level standards, the glossary and more.

www.gallaudet.edu/k-12-asl-content-standards

CAMP MARK 7

Camp Mark Seven (CM7) offers an array of recreational, educational, leadership and spiritual programs for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals of all ages. CM7 offers many waterfront and outdoor/indoor activities such as; swimming, canoeing, arts & crafts, lawn games, basketball and various ball games. There are many nearby trails for enthusiastic hikers. Located on Fourth Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.

www.campmark7.org/

DESCRIBED AND CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM

We're here to educate students with sensory disabilities, along with their parents and teachers. Our major network-produced, educational content is carefully customized to serve the needs of K-12 students, as well as adult students studying to meet the needs of blind and deaf students.

dcmp.org

ACCES-VR

(Vocational Rehabilitation)

Assisting individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living.

www.acces.nysed.gov/vr

LIVESCRIBE 3 SMARTPEN

Because the Livescribe 3 Smartpen captures everything you write and hear, you can focus on engaging with your peers and instructors during lectures rather than frantically scribbling notes.

store.livescribe.com

SUPPORTING SUCCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss began in 2011 and was created by Karen Anderson, PhD, with the goal of creating an 'umbrella website' for teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing. Karen had many practical materials that were frequently requested and had developed a personal website of these tools. Supporting Success built on the concept of making practical information readily available, resulting in the current resource-packed website.

successforkidswithhearingloss.com

DEAR READERS

We are proud to present to you the 9th edition of the New York Deaf/ HH Teen magazine. To make the magazine a reality this year it required recruiting interested students, having those participants complete an extensive questionnaire, drafting and editing their personal stories, edition photos, and crafting pages. This process involves extensive collaboration in which to produce this diverse educational resource.

Our purpose for publishing our own magazine is to highlight the talented Deaf and hard of hearing teens from across New York State, as well as to expand one's knowledge regarding hearing loss. This magazine's primary focus is to support Deaf/ Hard of Hearing students, their families and their educators. Students from all over New York State like to read this magazine and can relate to the students who are featured.

BEST WISHES,

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A special* *"Thank you" to:

Julie Landy
Shelley Majka

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Find a digital copy of the Central New York Deaf/HH Teens magazine online at:
www.CiTiboces.org/ExceptionalEducation

TEDDY CLAYTON

MY NAME IS TEDDY CLAYTON AND I LIVE IN A SMALL COUNTRY TOWN CALLED HANNIBAL. I AM 17 YEARS OLD AND IN 12TH GRADE.

EDUCATION

I go to G. Ray Bodley High School, in Fulton. It is public school with 981 students. My favorite subject is math because it is easy for me to understand. I have taken welding, career and financial management accounting instruction and intro to business. I have had many achievements in my high school career, including top 25 in my class, perfect attendance and academic excellence in English 10. My extracurricular activities include swimming, racing, and playing corn hole. I have loved my schooling experience.

At school I wear hearing aids, which help me hear my teachers and my peers.

HEARING LOSS

I have a moderate to severe sensorineural bilateral hearing loss that was detected at birth through a newborn hearing screening. I was 1-2 when I got my first hearing aids.

COMMUNICATION

When I was little, I was oral and used sign language. Now I am oral and communicate through spoken English. I can understand a little sign language still. If I do not understand my hearing friends, I will just ask them to repeat what they say. All my friends understand my hearing loss.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

I am on the swim team for Fulton and have been since I was in seventh grade. Due to my hearing loss while swimming, we have used hand signals to let me know when to get up on the blocks and then to go. Also, I have had to get special lights on the blocks that my mom and I both advocated for; these lights let me know when the race is starting. I have been very successful in swimming. I joined the swim team at a very early age and my coaches saw my potential immediately. I love swimming because it's a fun atmosphere and gives me something to do. I love the competitiveness of it.

In my racing career, I started off racing carts then moved up to dirt sportsmans. I use special ear plugs for the race-eiver. I love racing because it is my biggest passion, and it is such a rush to go around the track at high rates of speed.

SUPPORT SERVICES

I have had a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing since I was 2 years old. I have used bilateral hearing aids my entire life and used an FM system until

eighth grade. I use closed captions on the TV and when watching movies. It helps me to understand the actors and actresses better.

ADVOCACY

I believe I have had equal access to my hearing peers at school. I sometimes need to advocate for myself especially if I cannot hear something. I will ask teachers to repeat information, and I also look at my peers for instruction if I need to. I will ask teachers for copies of notes in case I miss anything that was said in class. If I run out of batteries, I make sure to let my teacher of the deaf know. I have attended IEP meetings in the past to advocate for my needs.

I also rely on lip reading, so if someone is covering their face or not looking at me when speaking, I will ask them to please face me when talking or to uncover their lips.

GOALS

After high school is finished, I plan to go to Universal Technical Institute in North Carolina for NASCAR Technical Institute. I would like to be a racing technician when I am done with school. The program is one year and three months long. I have been racing karts since I was 9 years old. For the past two years, I have raced dirt modified cars at tracks all over New York state.

FAMILY

My family has always supported me in getting the right accommodations for me due to my hearing loss. My parents fought to get me the starting system for the lights on the blocks for swimming. They have set me up for success in every way possible, making sure I have everything I need to satisfy my hearing needs. They make sure when talking to me they face me so I can read their lips, which makes it easier to understand what they say.

ADVICE

I want people to know don't be afraid to try something new and step out of your comfort zone.

"Never be afraid to try something new and even if it doesn't work out at first, find a way to make it work."



***I HAVE HAD MANY ACHIEVEMENTS IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER,
INCLUDING TOP 25 IN MY CLASS, PERFECT ATTENDANCE AND
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH 10.***

ISAIAH CORRON

MY NAME IS ISAIAH CORRON. I LIVE IN THE COUNTRY. I'M 18 YEARS OLD AND A SENIOR.

EDUCATION

I go to the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome. I went to public school in kindergarten then I started here in Rome in first grade when I was 6 years old. I did not talk until I was 4 years old. NYSSD is a very small school with not a lot of kids. My favorite subjects are gym and lunch. I like to be active in gym class. Elective classes I take are Electrical HVAC BOCES and work study. I play basketball, soccer and baseball. Basketball is my favorite sport to play and I'm a star basketball player. This year I was an All-Star, final MVP and won second place in the ESDAA Championship. We also won the NCAC sectional finals. I wear hearing aids to hear, and I communicate by talking. My English is very good and so is my hearing.

SUPPORT SERVICES

At NYSSD we have the best counselor, Chris Kimball. We also have two full-time speech therapists, a full-time audiologist, and a full time OT and PT. I enjoy counseling because Chris is a cool dude and I get along with him very well.

I use the FM system which helps me hear better during my classes. I have hearing aids which help me hear better and it's also bluetooth. I use bluetooth to listen to music through my hearing aids.

ADVOCACY

I use spoken English and sign language. Most of the staff use their voice and sign so I have access to learning. My hearing aids are rechargeable so obviously I charge them every night. When I don't understand someone, I sometimes ask them to repeat. If I can't hear, I ask to turn-up the audio volume. I rely on my hearing aids, and I can hear well.

GOALS

After I graduate, I want to get a good Job. I worked at Southwick Beach State Park last summer and I want to work there again this summer. My goal is to get my CDL and work here at NYSSD in the

maintenance department for a couple of years then go work at the DOT (Department of Transportation). I want to live on my own in a small house or apartment.

FAMILY

I was adopted from India when I was 2. I communicate with my family by talking. I have a large family. I have 11 siblings and nine were adopted like me. I also have four foster sisters and one foster brother. I have three siblings who wear cochlear implants and are fully deaf.

INSPIRATION

My Idol is Stephen Curry. He's one of the greatest shooters of all time and is very good at basketball. Stephen Curry is the reason I play basketball. He inspires me. I always like to watch him play basketball. My favorite quote is "I'm not the guy who's afraid of failure. I like to take the big shot and all that." - Stephen Curry.

I want to say thank you to my mom and dad for always supporting me and being on my side. I also want to thank everyone at NYSSD for everything you have done for me. I will miss everyone and will be back to visit.





**MY FAVORITE QUOTE IS "I'M NOT THE GUY WHO'S AFRAID OF FAILURE.
I LIKE TO TAKE THE BIG SHOT AND ALL THAT."
- STEPHEN CURRY.**

NINA STALSONBERG

EDUCATION

I am a senior at Paul V. Moore High School in Central Square. It's a public school of about 1,300 students. I have been in the Central Square School District since I was in pre-K.

My favorite subject has always been anything to do with science. This year, I am taking biology through Cayuga Community College and forensics through Syracuse University. I have always loved science. My junior year, I took anatomy and physiology, and I absolutely loved it. We did various types of dissections and learned all about the body and how it worked.

Throughout my high school years, I have been involved in many electives. Since fourth grade, I have played mallet percussion in band and, at one point in high school, I also took a photography class. I am also very involved in extracurriculars. I have been on the cross-country team all four years, as well as our district's rifle team. This year, I was senior captain for both teams. I am also in our school's National Honor Society chapter and I volunteer in our community.

If I could change one thing about my educational setting, it would be the amount of people that knew sign language. I wish more people had access to learn the language. It would be beneficial to me and any other of my deaf peers, as well as even my hearing peers in understanding our point of view. I've learned to sign through my teachers of the deaf over the years, but I don't have anyone to sign with because no one knows the language. Because of this, I plan on taking an ASL class as an elective in college to learn more, become more fluent, and hopefully meet more people in the deaf community.

I currently do not wear any amplification devices. In elementary school I used an FM system, and in sixth grade, I got the BAHA Connect. In ninth grade, I had it removed because it kept getting infected and I wasn't able to wear the processor anymore. After having the BAHA removed, I tried hearing aids and they didn't work for me. I didn't like how different they were from the BAHA. Now, I'm currently waiting for the next surgical option, which could be the cochlear implant or the Cochlear Osia.

OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, I HAVE ACHIEVED HIGH HONOR ROLL EVERY SINGLE MARKING PERIOD, ACHIEVED TOP 25 OF MY CLASS EVERY YEAR, BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR KEEPING HIGH GRADES DURING SPORTS SEASON, AND BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY.

HEARING LOSS

I have enlarged vestibular aqueduct syndrome. This has caused moderate-severe loss in my left ear, and a mild loss in my right ear. This was detected at the age of 4 when I failed my kindergarten hearing screening. Once I started kindergarten, I was assigned a teacher of the deaf and fitted with a FM system. I don't really have any feelings toward my hearing loss. I used to hate it, but I've grown to accept it, and I now adapt and thrive in life and school regardless. I have learned to advocate for myself and how to overcome obstacles.

COMMUNICATION

I know sign language, but I mainly use oral speech and lipreading to understand my surroundings. I rarely use sign language. I only really use it in instances when my parents can't hear me. I don't have any deaf friends who sign, so with them we all just rely on context and lipreading. In school, I have a captionist to help me with anything I may miss in class. At work, I let my coworkers know about my hearing loss, and they're very understanding and speak up when talking to me to ensure I can understand them.

STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

Although I didn't like my hearing loss for a long time, I learned to accept it. Because I accepted it soon after I was diagnosed, I haven't faced many challenges. My teachers have always followed my IEP/504, and I always advocated for myself when I needed something. My only issue with my hearing loss, is that it limited the sports I could do and the instruments I could play in band. In sports, I wasn't allowed to play anything with possible head contact, so my only options were cross-country and rifle. I was limited on instruments because I can't play anything that causes increased air pressure in my head, so my only option was percussion. I have been playing piano since kindergarten, so I chose mallet percussion. Over time, I've learned that nothing can stand in my way and that anything is possible.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Since kindergarten, I've had a teacher of the deaf. In elementary school, I also used an FM System. In sixth grade, I did a trial with someone who was both a captionist and an interpreter to see if it benefited me, and it did. I also got my BAHA in sixth grade. In 10th



grade, I switched to just using a captionist. Over the years, I think I've benefited from the captionist the most. At school, I also use closed captioning and transcripts where available, and my teachers give me their completed notes to reference for tests. I don't use anything extra at home besides captioning on TV.

ADVOCACY

Because of how much I've advocated for myself since the beginning, I think I have had equal access in school. I make sure my teachers follow my IEP/504, and if I ask for dialogue to be repeated, both my teachers and my peers listen to what I ask. My captionist also helps if I miss anything that's going on in the classroom. If I am in a social situation with peers and I can't hear, I make sure they're on my good side (right side) and I ask them to speak up. If all else fails, I just rely on lipreading and context to understand what's going on and what they're saying. My teachers of the deaf have also made sure that I have everything to need, and they have helped me greatly to get to where I am now.

GOALS

After high school, I am going to college. I have been accepted to SUNY Morrisville to pursue an associate degree in nursing. Afterward, I plan on going to Upstate Medical University to further my studies, earn my bachelor's, and hopefully make my way to becoming a nurse practitioner.

FAMILY

I was diagnosed at 4 years old. Since then, both my immediate and extended family have been nothing but supportive. My mom has done the most, especially because she has been my rock from the beginning by advocating for me in my CSE meetings before I was able to. My family understands that if I don't hear them, they need to speak up. My immediate family makes sure captions are on when we watch movies, and they help me in loud situations if I can't hear or understand what's going on in the surrounding environment. They aren't fluent in sign language but try when I need it. This past

Christmas, my stepmother gifted me a Littmann CORE stethoscope. This stethoscope is electronic; it has volume controls so it can be amplified, and it connects to an app to show me how a person's heart and lungs are functioning. This helps because it means I won't have to completely rely on my ears in my nursing career. The only thing that my family could help with is if everyone knew sign language or at least the basics.

MORE INFORMATION

I absolutely love interacting with both people and animals. I love being at social events, and I can easily make conversation with just about anyone. At my dad's, I have two dogs, a German shepherd and a mutt, whose names are Thor and Loki, and two cats, a calico and a gray tiger, named Mochi and Abby. At my mom's, I have two cats, an orange tiger and a gray tiger, whose names are Scooch and Wolfy. One day, I hope to maybe have a house full of animals.

I love being outside. My dad has a boat, so when I'm home and if it's nice, I am always asking to go out and fish with him. I also hunt but have yet to get a deer. If I'm able to, I love to be out on the four-wheeler in the summer. I love road trips, especially to a state park or a beach, and my favorite thing to see outside is the beautiful sunsets on a body of water. I also have a huge obsession with the show "Friends." Half of my wardrobe is their merchandise. I have numerous hoodies and T-shirts that have moments from the show. Usually if it's on, I'm watching it.

A quote that sums up my beliefs is, "Happiness is not by chance, but by choice," written by Jim Rohn. You always have the choice to be happy. You can't control your surroundings, but you can control your reaction to them.

ROLE MODEL

My role model has always been Helen Keller. Although she was both blind and deaf, she managed to achieve so much in her lifetime. She always remained optimistic and persevered, no matter the obstacle or restriction life threw her way. She has always taught me that anything is possible if you have the determination to make it happen.

KENDALL WILLIAMSON

MY NAME IS KENDALL, AND I LIVE NEAR THE CITY OF FULTON IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED VOLNEY. I AM 18 YEARS OLD, AND MY BIRTHDAY IS IN MAY. I AM IN A WORK STUDY CLASSROOM IN 12TH GRADE.

EDUCATION

I go to G. Ray Bodley High School and the CiTi vocational enrichment program. It is a mainstream school program in Fulton and there are 17 students in my class. At CiTi, I have 12 students in my class. For my job sites I have been to Price Chopper, where I am currently working, and Kathy's Cakes. I really enjoyed working at both places.

Previously, I was on the swim team, and I have been involved in a sewing group. Also, I was on the unified bowling team.

I wish more staff knew sign language along with more students. I wish I had more students around me who were deaf/ hard of hearing.

To help me in school, I use an FM system, bilateral hearing aids, and an educational interpreter. I have an educational audiologist and a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, along with a speech and language pathologist.

I have made the honor roll in school and also for my work study program I was rewarded with employee of the month.

HEARING LOSS

I have a mild bilateral sensorineural hearing loss that was diagnosed at 18 months. I got my first hearing aids when I was in second grade. I love my hearing aids because they help me hear better.

COMMUNICATION

I use my voice and sign language to communicate. I have an educational interpreter named Mrs. Shipman. She is also my job coach. She uses sign language to help me to communicate to others. I use my voice and sign language in my classes and at my work study job site. I also use voice and sign at home with my family. When I am talking with my friends I sign sometimes but mostly use my voice. I like to give my friends sign names.

STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

When I do not have an interpreter, it is harder for me to understand what other people are saying. For example, when I was on the swimming team, I did not have an interpreter and it made it hard to understand what the coach had to say.

SUPPORT SERVICES

At school and at my job site I have a sign language interpreter. I also have speech services and teacher of the deaf/ hard of hearing services. I am in a 12:1:4 life skills classroom and a work study program at the Center for Instruction Technology & Innovation, a BOCES program in Oswego County.

At school, I used my interpreter and my hearing aids and FM system. At home, I don't use any assistive technology.

I also go out into the community with the support of Jennifer, from Epilepsy Pralid. We like to dance, paint and cook. Sometimes we like to go bowling and go out to dinner.

ADVOCACY

Sometimes I struggle with having a hearing loss because I have to do things differently than other students. I must remember to tell teachers that they need to wear the microphone, and sometimes I have to remind teachers that they need to unmute the microphone. I also sometimes need to change my batteries or tell others that my hearing aids are not working properly. If I cannot hear my friends at school, I make sure to tell them that I cannot hear them.

GOALS

In the future I would like to go to college at Syracuse University in their Inclusive U program. I would like to be a personal shopper when I finish school. I really enjoy Walmart and Kohls. I want to get married someday and live in an apartment in Florida.

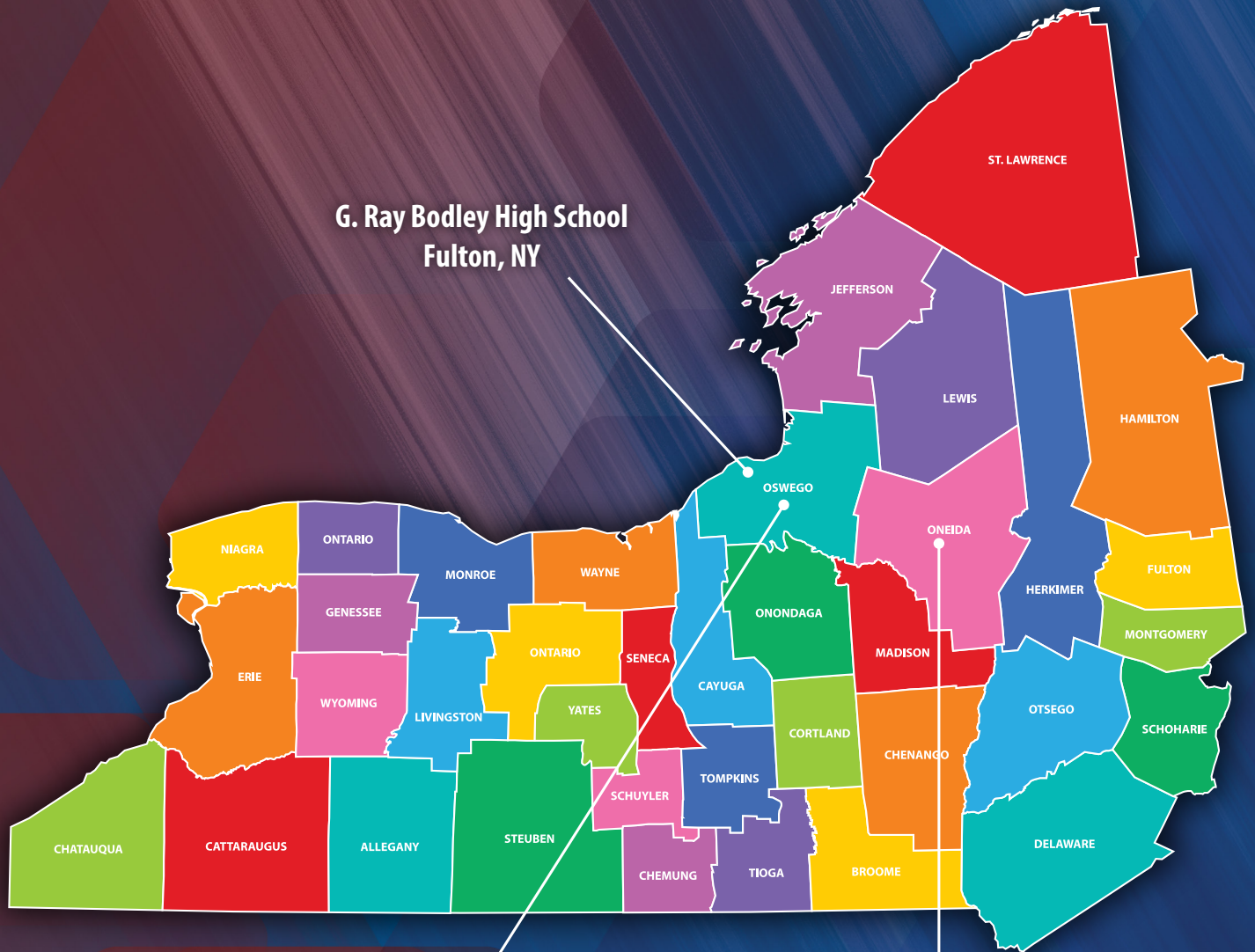
ADVICE

Get out there and make memories even if you have a hearing loss.



I HAVE MADE THE HONOR ROLL IN SCHOOL AND ALSO FOR MY WORK STUDY PROGRAM I WAS REWARDED WITH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH.

TOD/HH STAYING CONNECTED



G. Ray Bodley High School
Fulton, NY

Paul V. Moore High School
Central Square

**New York State
School for the Deaf**
Rome, NY