



2018 Regional Recipient of the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student



Alexia Proper

Alexia Proper is the State Support Team Region 9 Regional Finalist of the R. A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student. Alexia is a fourth grade student at Killbuck Elementary School in the West Holmes Local School District. Alexia was born with optic nerve hypoplasia, which resulted in complete blindness. She has experienced challenges with fine/gross motor, communication, and academic and behavioral skills. Previously Alexia participated in an abbreviated school schedule and required a one-on-one educational assistant. She demonstrated limited ability to sustain effort throughout the school day. She exhibited behaviors that significantly interfered with her learning. Alexia was not able to participate in the general education classroom and could not participate for a full school day due to her intensive needs.

Carrie Maltarich, the Principal of Killbuck Elementary School, shares that Alexia “has shown tremendous growth academically and behaviorally. She has demonstrated a strong desire to learn.” Ms. Maltarich believes Alexia has shown the most growth in her self-management skills. Currently, Alexia participates in small group and general education classrooms for a full school day. She takes pride in her work and strives to do her best in her fourth grade classroom. Alexia takes an active role in her behavior plan and schedule by assisting in making correct choices throughout the school day. She is a positive role model regarding her determination to learn and by taking ownership of her behavior. She consistently communicates effectively in the classroom.

Alexia has an active team working to determine the most effective ways to provide for her complex needs. We know that being a fourth grader is already complex. Additionally, Alexia receives services for orientation and mobility, communication, behavior, braille, and occupational and physical therapies. Alexia currently demonstrates commitment in all that she is involved. She is described as having a positive attitude and outlook on life that brings a smile to everyone around her. It is noted that even though Alexia may realize she may be different from her peers, she does her best to learn and grow.

Stephanie Baker, School Psychologist, states, “In the five years I have had the pleasure to know Alexia, I have not witnessed a more dramatic improvement in behavior, motivation, self-regulation, and achievement in any other student.” Alexia has shown remarkable growth.

We congratulate Alexia Proper as the State Support Team Region 9 2018 Regional Recipient of the R. A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student.

