



# SUCCESS STORIES

## from Michigan City Area Schools

### SUCCESS begins with Marc Wajsgras

...HONOR ROLL STUDENT

...SCHOOL LEADER

#### ...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Seventh-grader Marc Wajsgras is a busy, popular 13-year-old who loves swimming, horseback riding, and playing computer games – and is an honor-roll student at Barker Middle School. He also happens to have cerebral palsy, so between classes you’re likely to find him tooling around the school hallways in his electric wheelchair. But he doesn’t let his physical disability get in the way of his success. “I’m the same as everyone else,” he says. “The key is keeping a positive attitude.”

**SCHOOL DAYS:** Marc attended Joy Elementary School from preschool through fifth grade, where he was president of his fifth grade class. He loves reading (especially Henry Winkler’s “Hank Zipzer” series), computers, and social studies. He completes most of his school work on a laptop computer with a touch screen, using drawing and typing tools to work on pages scanned in by paraprofessional Kathy Welch. “Our school system is great,” says Marc. “Every teacher and para I’ve ever had has been so nice. They help me do my best.”



**FUTURE FOCUSED:** One day, Marc dreams of a career as a 911 dispatcher. “Ever since I was a little kid, I’ve been into emergency stuff – fire trucks, ambulances, police cars. I want to work in that field some day.” For now, he is focused on his schoolwork and helping to organize fundraisers and special events as a member of Barker’s student council.

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** “Like my mom always says: Step up to the plate! That means, have courage and *always* do your best.”

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