

Shining Star

Austin Hamman

WOW— It's hard to believe that our freshman will soon celebrate his sixteenth Birthday! Born on May 9, 1988 weighing 6lb 3oz, Austin Lee Hamman was born with blonde hair and sparkling blue eyes. Now, sixteen years later, Austin is about to complete his third year at Woodside Middle School and is such a popular, personable, happy fun, and responsible young adult — we are so very proud of him!!

It really is hard to believe that Austin's early childhood years have gone by so quickly. Austin was very busy — (and still is) — with physical, occupational and speech therapies, and attending the LDC (Learning and Development Center) and pre-school, then on to Haverhill Elementary. Austin has always been involved in many activities...

Austin is currently an eighth grader at Woodside Middle School where he is a member of the school choir. He loves to sing and dance...and therefore, he attends ALL of the school dances. Austin also participates in Special Olympics — the 100-yard dash and standing long jump are his favorite events. Horseback riding and bowling are two more of Austin's favorite activities.

Austin has a thirteen-year old brother Adam, and a seven-year old sister, Alicia. Bailey is Austin's four-year old Chocolate Lab — Austin and Bailey are truly best buddies!

Kriste White, Austin's teacher writes:

Austin has been my student at Woodside for the past three years. He is an excellent student who is always willing to try his best at whatever he does. He has improved his skills in so many areas since he came to Woodside. Austin works daily on improving his reading skills and works diligently on his spelling words. He also works hard on math and handwriting. Austin is very excited to learn new things...

His excitement filters into everyone in the classroom. Austin attends general education classes throughout his day. He loves his time in general education and is a very popular young man. Austin has worked very hard on his social skills, and does a wonderful job with his friends. We are always ready for a laugh when Austin is around, but he also knows when it is time to get down to business and to complete his work. Austin has touched everyone who knows him here at Woodside. I have been blessed to have Austin as my student. Words are not able to express the positive impact that Austin has made on so many lives, including mine.

Austin participates in Key Club, which is sponsored by AWS. Club activities include bowling, arts and crafts, pizza parties and other fun after-school activities.

Austin is also a member of the Jestors — a music and theatrical group from the University of St. Francis. Austin loves music and dance — and always enjoys his time on stage with other members of the group. In fact, Austin recently finished his eighth year of performing with the



Jestors. Austin is also a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

Even summers are very busy for Austin...his favorite summertime activity is attending Camp Hi-Lite in Mooresville, Indiana. This is a weeklong camp for young adults with DS. Austin has been attending this camp since he was eight years old. This is a very special week — not only for Austin but for mom and dad too!! His favorite activities here include the Barn Dance and the overnight camp-out, swimming and the pontoon rides...but most of all it's being re-united with his friends and counselors who return to the camp each year.

We are so proud of Austin — he has taught us more in these past sixteen years than we could have ever taught him. We enjoy his personality — he is always positive, happy and determined to do his best in all that he does. What more could parents ask for?!

—Dick and Lori Hamman

