



Congratulations Marisela Montes!

2026 Michigan CEC Prose Award Winner

Marisela Montes is an 8th grader at MacDonald Middle School whose kindness, curiosity, and outgoing personality make her a wonderful presence in her school community. She loves connecting with both peers and adults through conversation, sharing jokes, being silly, and bringing her great sense of humor to those around her. Her natural curiosity and eagerness to learn mean she is always asking questions and looking for opportunities to discover something new.

Marisela is also a patient and thoughtful communicator. When using American Sign Language (ASL), she takes the time to help those around her understand, often teaching classmates and teachers new signs along the way. Her willingness to share her knowledge helps create connections with others and encourages a more inclusive environment where everyone has an opportunity to communicate and learn together.

Above all, Marisela approaches others with genuine compassion, patience, and kindness. Her ability to connect, communicate, and share her personality with those around her makes her a special part of her school community and truly embodies the spirit of Yes I Can!

