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MEDIA RELEASE

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8TH GRADER WITH AUTISM PROVIDES LESSONS ON EMPATHY, KINDNESS & SPORTSMANSHIP

Ashwaubenon, WI – December 6, 2017 – John Marshall is an 8th grade student with autism at Parkview Middle School, who has never been part of a team, worn a team jersey nor had a large birthday party with all boys...until this year...as a member of Parkview's 8th grade boys' basketball team. Last week, his teammates, along with Coach Kerry Janquart, Teacher Vanessa Talus, Principal Kris Hucek and his mom, threw John his first birthday party after the game. The party was a huge surprise, complete with cake, gifts, balloons and a team autographed photo (see attached photos).

On Thursday, December 7th, John and his teammates will play in their last home basketball game of the season at Parkview at 5:00 pm. Following the game, there will be a ceremony, including a few surprises, put on by Coach Janquart and his teammates.

John's coach and teacher have both communicated with opposing teams' coaches and principals about their teams' good sportsmanship. Often times, the opposing team players give the ball to John so he can shoot and make a basket.

According to Hucek, "John's story and his participation in basketball this year have served as amazing lessons in empathy, sportsmanship and genuine kindness for many teams. It's been amazing to watch and be a part of the crowd during these moments."

For more information, please contact Kris Hucek, Principal of Parkview Middle School, at 920-492-2940, extension 4003 or khucek@ashwaubenonk12.org.

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