NAME Divie PASSION Music

My Story

Meet Dixie Crum, one of eight graduates in the Rebecca Stallman Southgate School Class of 2020. According to her parents, Renee and Jerry McPherson, Dixie is very passionate hard working person when she sets her mind to it. It may take her a little while to warm up to you, but when she does, she is completely your best friend.

She loves to be on the go as much as she can. She loves listening to music and being outside, going on walks, swinging on the swing, swimming in the pool or just hanging out with friends and family in the backyard.

> She can be very stubborn at times but when she finds something or someone she likes there is no changing that. We want what is best for Dixie in her life and want to see her grow and flourish into whatever she chooses to do.

> Dixie has overcome a lot of illnesses and hospital stays in her life and a lot of set backs the last few years. She lost her ability to eat, drink and walk on her own but







she has worked hard the last few years to regain her mobility with help and is doing a great job. Stark DD has helped Dixie in so many ways. "Dixie is non verbal and they have taught her and us how to communicate using communication devices like they do at school to communicate with some prompting. She also uses picture icons to choose her special activities. They have helped in every way possible with PT, OT, Speech and anything thing else she has needed. If there is something she has a setback with they are there to help with suggestions and ideas on how to try to get her back on track or working to get her back on her goals," says Renee.

Her classroom Intervention Specialist, Liz Shisler, says: "While this was her first year in my classroom, it was a fabulous, but short year. Dixie has a strong and determined soul. This young lady has so much determination she will do whatever it takes to get the things she wants, most especially her favorite red crochet heart toy.

Dixie has had many ups and downs through her life, but she continues to show progress and show her love for her family and her closest friends.

Dixie has the best smile around, but you have to be sure to try and catch her doing it. Although her smiles are few and far between and often take a lot of motivation to see one they are truly worth the wait and effort.

Some of Dixie's favorite things to do while in school include listening to music, hanging out with her bestie Lauren Barrack, her previous classroom follow along, playing with her heart shaped crocheted toy and observing all her peers."

Find videos of our all of our <u>2020 RS Southgate School Graduates on our StarkDD YouTube Channel</u>.





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