



SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Erik Troske

...SPELLING AND GEOGRAPHY WIZ

...BIRD WATCHER

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

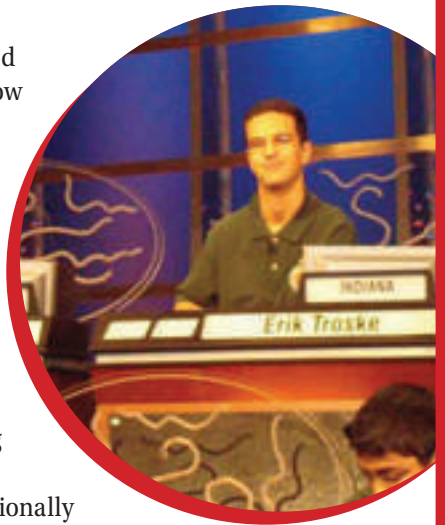
Erik Troske is a Michigan City celebrity: You may have seen him on national television in 2008, when he represented Indiana in the National Geographic Bee finals hosted by *Jeopardy's* Alex Trebek. (He finished fourth in the nation!) Erik also reached the National Spelling Bee in 2007, and won the State Geography title that year, as well. "I've been blessed with a photographic memory," he says. "Even though I've never traveled out of the country, I've always been interested in world cultures and geography."

SCHOOL DAYS: Erik attended Edgewood Elementary and Barker Middle School. He is now a sophomore at Michigan City High School, where he is a member of the swim team and French Club. "I like the diversity at this school," says Erik. "There's a real value to being surrounded by a variety of people."

BIRD BRAIN: Erik describes himself as an "amateur hardcore birder," and he enjoys spending time in the woods with his binoculars, spotting scope, and tripod, seeking out rare species. "We live in a great area for birding," he points out. "Oceanic species occasionally end up here."

FUTURE PLANS: Erik's favorite subjects are foreign languages, especially French, and also Biology. "I would like to pursue a career related to natural science – or maybe serve as a diplomat," he says.

SECRET TO SUCCESS: "Don't do something just because other kids your age are doing it, or because it's what adults might expect. Be yourself and follow your dreams."



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