

MSU football player motivates young minds

Windemere Park students urged to stick with tasks

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Encouragement from a Michigan State University football player has given second-grader Abigail Dejene motivation to work hard on her toughest subject - math, she said.

Ross Weaver, a junior cornerback for the Spartans, spoke Wednesday morning to second- and sixth-grade students at Windemere Park Charter Academy in Lansing Township. He focused on perseverance.

Each month, the school has a theme, or "moral focus," and January's was perseverance. Students worked on two lessons a week related to perseverance, second-grade teacher Taylor Webb said.

"I wanted him to talk to the kids about how he's had to keep trying and how he hasn't given up," she said.

The students sat on Webb's classroom floor, several of them wearing green-and-white MSU shirts. Before Weaver spoke, they listened to the MSU fight song.

"One thing about perseverance is believing in yourself," Weaver told the kids. "If you keep doing it, you'll eventually have success."

Seven-year-old Abigail recently had a hard time with her math homework. She said every time she figured out an answer, her dad checked it and told her it was wrong. But, she said, "I kept on doing it, and finally I got the right answer."

After hearing Weaver talk about the importance of perseverance, Abigail said she won't give up on math.

"I learned to keep on trying because that's how you persevere," she said.

