

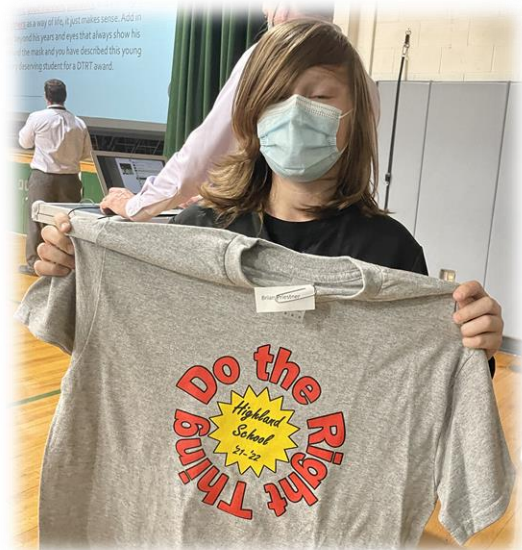
# Do the Right Thing Awards

November 2021

The following are the actual submissions for the Highland School DTRT award which were projected in front of the entire school and read aloud during an assembly. Students who are nominated are then called up to the front of the gym with a theme song playing and student applause to receive their deserved T-shirt and a firm handshake from the Principal. Submissions are made by adults within the school who witness selfless acts of kindness or consistent role model behavior.

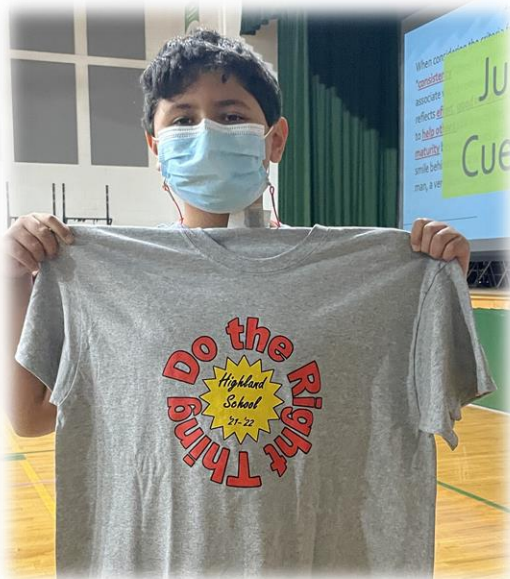
## Brian Priestner- 4<sup>th</sup> grade:

This student always comes to school with a smile. He works hard every day and is super helpful to his classmates. Even at the end of the day when everyone is tired and grumpy, he participates with a smile on his face. He is incredibly artistic. We love when he incorporates art into his work. He is a student who is just always doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way.



## Juan Cuervo- 6<sup>th</sup> grade

When considering the criteria for this award, the word "consistency" doesn't seem like the most exciting one to associate with a nominee. However, when the consistency reflects effort, good manners, positivity, and a willingness to help others as a way of life, it just makes sense. Add in maturity beyond his years and eyes that always show his smile behind the mask and you have described this young man, a very deserving student for a DTRT award.



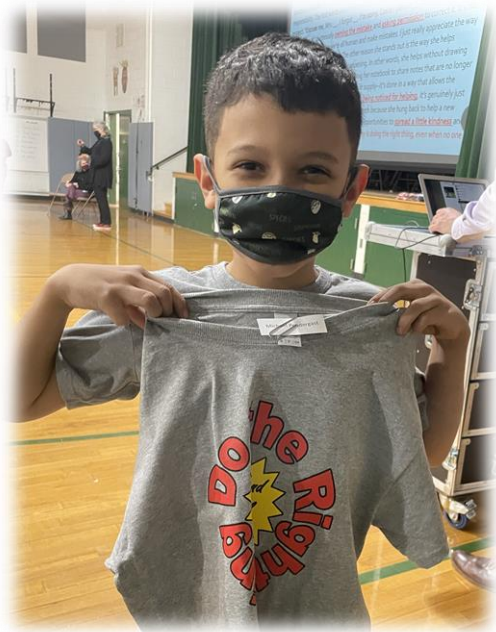
## **Anderson Iraheta-Palacios – 4<sup>th</sup> grade:**

This student fully embodies every aspect of what it means to "Do The Right Thing." They are always **'on task'** in class and are comfortable advocating, or **asking for help as needed.**

Additionally, this student is always on the lookout for situations in which they can provide **assistance** to other students, as well as to their teachers. This student is always thinking of others, they are truly a **selfless** individual.

While some other students may look to take part in classroom jobs that are considered 'fun,' this student actively seeks to take on tasks they believe will most benefit the entire class, the harder, or more **meaningful jobs.**

At the end of each day, this student is often the last to leave the room, **cleaning up, pushing in chairs, and properly saying goodbye** to each of his teachers. They then proceed to say goodbye to other teachers on their way out of the building and do so with a **smile on their face.** This student is well-deserving of this award, as they are a genuine, kind, and hardworking member of our Highland family.



## **Michael Pendergast – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

Upon arriving to Highland school as a new student, this child found out about our Mentor program. He appeared very enthusiastic about meeting their new partner for the year. He soon found out his partner was deaf and required a translator to communicate with him. This student went home to his Mom and asked if he could learn sign language so that he could speak directly to his 6<sup>th</sup> grade partner. This embodies what the Do the Right Thing Award represents, someone who goes above and beyond for another person without any need for recognition.

### Molly Mezak- 5<sup>th</sup> grade:

This student stands out for two reasons. The first one, I find so refreshing; the mature way she handles a mistake. If she forgot something in her locker, she approaches it by accepting responsibility. The first words out of her mouth are consistently showing accountability and respect. "Excuse me, Mrs. \_\_. I forgot \_\_. I'm sorry. Could I please \_\_\_." I love this combination of courteously owning the mistake and asking permission to correct it. It's not that it happens often, but we're all human and make mistakes. I just really appreciate the way she goes about problem-solving. The other reason she stands out is the way she helps without disrupting the flow of what's happening. In other words, she helps without drawing attention to herself. Whether it's quietly tilting her notebook to share notes that are no longer projected or pointing out where to find a link or supply--it's done in a way that allows the lesson to carry on uninterrupted. It's not about being noticed for helping, it's genuinely just about helping. Two weeks ago, she was late to lunch because she hung back to help a new student get settled after class. She seems to see opportunities to spread a little kindness and just does it. C.S. Lewis is noted as saying, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." Congratulations to .....



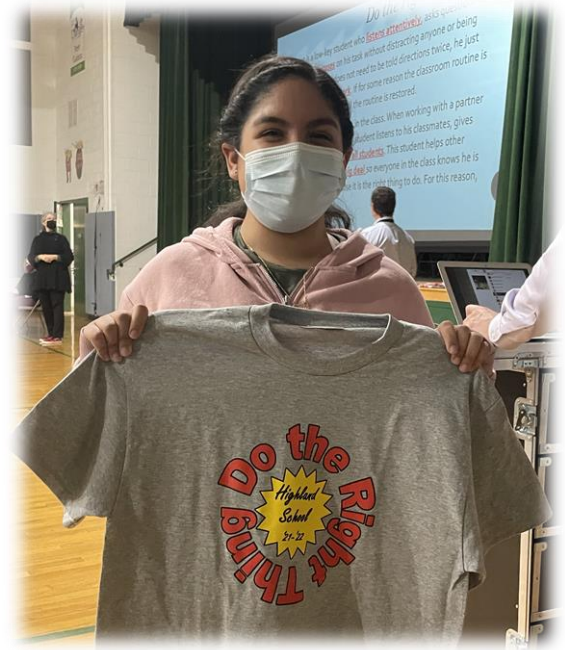
### Avery Quinn- 4<sup>th</sup> grade:

This student sheds a **positive light** in our classrooms. His words and actions are 100% **thoughtful**. He **perseveres** through his assignments, working carefully to reach toward expectations. He also takes the time to listen closely during class discussions and then respond with meaningful ideas. When working with his teachers or his peers, he is **cooperative and speaks nicely**. Finally, there is not a day that goes by where this student is not reaching out a **helping hand**. This is especially seen at the end of the school day, when he assists in organizing and cleaning up our classroom. He'll remind his classmates to grab their lunch bags for home, push in chairs, and more. Sometimes he'll even stay a minute or two after the bell to make sure everything is in place. Then, as he calmly walks out the door, he turns to say **goodbye** to his teachers and wishes us a good day. We appreciate how much he cares for his education, his classroom, his peers, and his teachers. This student puts a smile on our faces, so we hope this nomination does the same for him. Thank you for "doing the right thing,"...



### Ana Carreno- 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

This student is one who is always willing to **help anyone** in need. She greets every single person in the hallway with a “hello” along with her infectious smile. I often see her trying to help her HIP classmates connect with the other students as she translates words to ASL for them on the playground or in the cafeteria **without a complaint**. During our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade mentor program this student agreed to combine her group with another student’s group so they could communicate ASL to Words more effectively, spending the entire gym class translating the conversation between her classmate and his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade partner. This student has faced some pretty difficult challenges over the years, but she **perseveres** through each one with a smile.

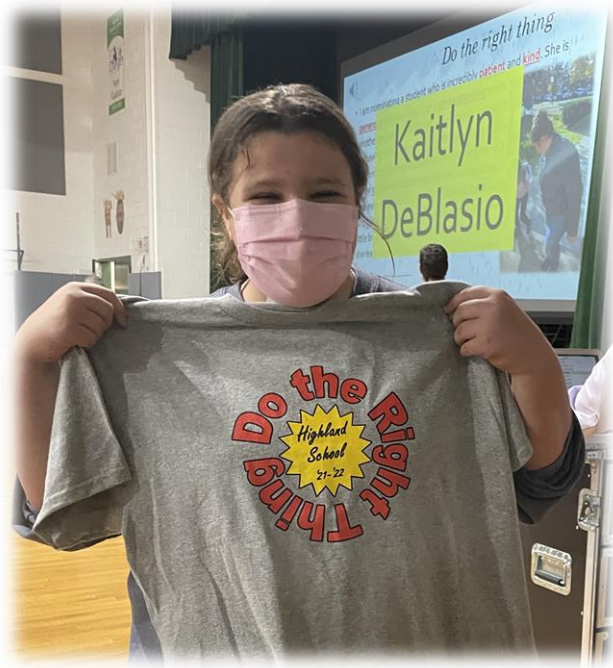


### Ryan Pellegrino – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

This student is a low-key student who **listens attentively**, asks questions as needed, and then **focuses** on his task without distracting anyone or being distracted by anyone. He does not need to be told directions twice, he just **buckles down and goes to work**. If for some reason the classroom routine is disrupted, he waits patiently until the routine is restored.

He works great with the other kids in the class. When working with a partner or within collaborative groups, this student listens to his classmates, gives suggestions, and **works well with all students**. This student helps other students quietly, **not making a big deal** so everyone in the class knows he is doing it. He does it simply because it is the right thing to do. For this reason, we nominate.....





### **Kaitlyn DeBlasio – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

I am nominating a student who is incredibly **patient** and **kind**. She is **generous** with her time. She is **understanding** when she sees another student having a difficult morning. This sixth grader could be having fun with her friends or studying for a test before homeroom - instead she spends her morning being a **mentor** to one of my 3rd grade students helping them enter school in the morning. She even stood OUTSIDE in the POURING RAIN just to welcome and guide my student into the building and make her morning a little brighter. I am really appreciative of her efforts and know that she really deserves this DO THE RIGHT THING award.