

Do the Right Thing Awards

November 2018

Layla Borenzo- 4th grade

This student displays all the qualities needed to achieve this nomination. This student does everything she is supposed to do and is a good listener. We can always rely on her whether it's getting ready for the day, transitioning into another subject, and working with another student, This student always tries her best and perseveres even when it is challenging. She doesn't give up! She has a smile on her face and has a very pleasant disposition. She is easy going and flexible. She follows directions the first time they are given. She has made friends with everyone in our class. She is empathetic to everyone's feelings in our class. She goes out of her way to make sure that her classmates are not left out and includes everyone into her group. Because of all these qualities we'd like to nominate.....



Juliana Natoli- 3rd grade

Since entering Highland School's Third Grade in September, this young lady has displayed enthusiasm, an amazing work ethic, and a love for learning.

She consistently takes ownership of her learning. She works diligently, yet stops whatever she is doing if additional instructions are given. She rarely asks for clarification or repeated directions because she listens carefully and processes what needs to be done the first time.

She is very self-aware and conscientious about her surroundings and peers. She is helpful and kind to her classmates as well as adults. She is aware of what others are doing and does her best to be a help, not a distraction. She offers help while making sure she isn't in someone else's way.

In addition to the determination she demonstrates on all of own her work, This young lady likes to keep teachers and classmates on task! She politely and respectfully reminds me of special events that will be happening that day. If we don't get to an activity, I can count on her to ensure we do so the following day! These are just a few examples of this student's consistently doing the right thing.

This student is not just about work, however. She has a terrific sense of humor and always finds something to smile about! This is why I believe she has earned the honor of receiving the Do the Right Thing award.



Lilah Thompson-5th grade

Since day one this young lady greets me with a good morning and a friendly smile everyday. She is always on time for school and each of her classes. She is very reliable. She is kind, considerate, and always willing to help out a teacher, even if it makes her a couple minutes late at dismissal time. She works hard in all academics areas at school as well as at home. She can always be counted on to participate or seek clarification when needed. This student also wrote a fantastic speech for student council and is now officially a member. She is very patient and helpful with peers. She has given her own time during school to help out someone else in need. She is consistent every day! It is truly a pleasure to have her in class. Simply put she always does the right thing. She impacts not only our class, but the whole school.

For instance, another teacher wanted to nominate her as well for her good deeds. This student is not in my class but she has a very kind heart. I have a student in my class who was not only new to Highland School but also new to the country. As such, she came in September not having any friends or really knowing much English. Recess time was hard for her. But, this young lady came up to my student and showed her how to play Four Square. She didn't have to do that and I'm sure she could have found some other kids to play with, but she showed a lot of kindness and character by going out of her way to befriend someone who needed it. It is for that reason I think she should receive one of your coveted t-shirts!



Lauren Deblasio-5th grade

This student continuously puts forth her best effort in everything she does and submits. She enhances our classroom climate by helping others, contributing to class discussions, and consistently reflects a positive attitude. Most of all, she is the epitome of Integrity. The DTRT award started upon the foundation of this quote, "Integrity is **doing the right thing**, even when no one is **watching**." We have seen this student do just that. For example, another student had to go to the nurse while the class was taking notes. Without being asked or told, this student immediately grabbed her classmate's notebook and proceeded to take her notes in addition to her own. She did not want her classmate to fall behind. Most people might simply assume she was just doing this for a friend. However, we have seen her do this on multiple occasions for all her peers. Our class would not be the same without her in it. For these reasons and more, we would greatly like to nominate her for the Do the Right Thing award.



Max Gmerek- 4th grade

I would like to nominate this young man for Doing The Right Thing. He is an enthusiastic student that comes to class with a smile everyday. His personality and demeanor make him a great friend to all of his peers. He sets the standard for classroom behavior, serving as a role-model to all. He is a dedicated, humble, and a meticulous student. He tries his best and always produces work with the highest of quality in mind.



Mia Eliopoulos- 3rd grade

I want to nominate a third grader for doing the right thing. In Physical Education classes, it is always common to have students of different levels. In Highland School specifically, we have so many students with varying abilities. Some students work extremely hard but their hardest might not be enough to win a game or to score a goal or make a basket. It is easy to get down on yourself when you try your best but it doesn't end up going your way. The student I am nominating recognizes how hard her classmates work and is very IN TUNE with how kids are feeling. She will go out of her way to check in with students in her class to make sure they are okay, whether it is coming right out and asking them or asking for a simple thumbs up. She helps students constantly and is patient and kind whenever she does. I don't know if she even realizes how much she helps others but she deserves to know and she deserves to be recognized for doing the right thing... Keep being HELPFUL. Keep being KIND. Keep THINKING OF OTHER PEOPLE.



Mr. Tom Treta- Maintenance

This person was a Vietnam veteran who continues to sacrifice his time for others here in Midland Park. He is a retired electrician who decided to help Midland Park by becoming part of our maintenance crew. He has been helping all of us in one way or another for 8 years. This person has been described as an old school kind of guy. He knows all three buildings inside and out. If you hear drilling, rest assure it is this person fixing or creating something to improve our school in some capacity. He is patient and kind and always willing to answer any engineering question big or small. He is exceptional at finding the source of the problem and never takes the easy way out. He puts in a lot of hours as he has to travel and work in all three buildings on any given day. He even shares his breakfast with Mrs. Callesano any day he is in Highland. He is the reason we have lights in the gym, he used to have to change all of the lightbulbs

in the gym and now because of his request we have all new LED lights that he installed. He was the one who installed all of the smartboards in your classrooms. He was also the one who installed sinks in the faculty room for the teachers. He does things that are certainly not part of his job description, like fixing Mrs. Guarini's rocking chair which was so appreciated. You are a person the students constantly see working in our building, but they probably don't know your name or your job. We think it is time to acknowledge all of your hard work. You are always doing the right thing, you go out of your way to help improve our school which in turn makes us all smile so thank you for all that you do.

It's comforting to feel supported--to feel like there are people around you who care about the environment in which you have to work. Whenever I see this man working on something in the building, I have faith it's going to be handled quickly and done well. For years I worked in a freezing classroom. When Mr. Galasso arrived he put this man on the job and soon after the temperatures in my classroom improved. He's just trustworthy and capable, and a good, hard-working human. We are SO lucky to have him here.