

# Do the Right Thing Awards

June 2019

The following are the actual submissions for the Highland School DTRT award. Submissions are made by adults within the school who witness selfless acts of kindness and hard work.

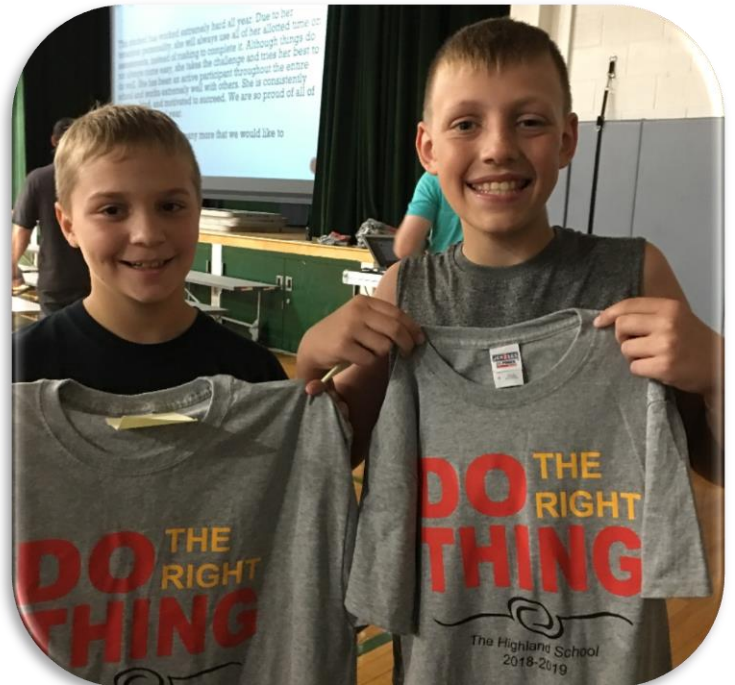
## Abby Kuhnel- 4<sup>th</sup> grade

This amazing girl carries herself with dignity *every single day*. She always works her hardest to continually grow. I also don't know what I would do without her automatic help in managing classroom routines, such as passing out flyers, recognizing items to be cleaned up, or locking our laptop cart. Anytime our class has discussed improvements which will help strengthen us, she is always the first on board, taking her already-positive actions and building upon them. This shows her empathy, selflessness, and team spirit, not just hearing words others say but understanding them and responding with compassionate choices that will benefit the whole and not just herself. She exemplifies that "doing the right thing" is a choice, but the more we do it, the more it becomes a part of who we are, and equally importantly, it spreads to others. People just feel good around her! Furthermore, her righteousness is not rehearsed or "loud." She is completely modest in her thoughtfulness. I don't believe any words can express the true credit she deserves. This inspiring young lady is...



## Logan Feehan and Ryan Liebmann – 4<sup>th</sup> grade

I have two outstanding young men in my class who "do the right thing" on a daily basis. They are powerhouses of good deeds and effort. During learning times, they listen attentively, staying fixated on whoever the speaker is. In the face of challenges, the one boy works hard towards expectations with not one single complaint. The other boy demonstrates that he values his educational experience through always remaining inquisitive during learning. Both are automatic helpers, jumping to anyone's aid, and when it's mine, it takes a huge burden off my shoulders. They are even willing to do the "grunt work" that others usually didn't want to bother with, such as taking down lunch clips or picking up paper or pencils on the floor from others' work. Both also have loads of kindness to share. They make their peers feel valued, respected, and safe by accepting everyone, showing empathy, and building them up regardless of differences. Foremost, neither of these young men are attention-seeking in their actions and don't expect anything in return. What may seem like small actions make a positive impact on our classroom community. These deserving students are...



### Megan Zamora-5<sup>th</sup> grade

This student has worked extremely hard all year. Due to her tenacious personality, she will always use all of her allotted time on assessments, instead of rushing to complete it. Although things do not always come easy, she takes the challenge and tries her best to do well. She has been an active participant throughout the entire school and works extremely well with others. She is consistently positive, kind, and motivated to succeed. We are so proud of all of her effort this school year.

It is for these reasons and many more that we would like to nominate...



### Amelia Van Vliet -5<sup>th</sup> grade

This student has been stellar the entire school year. This student is kind to everyone, always willing to help, and dedicated to being a successful student, friend, and human being. She consistently strives to do better and never remains complacent. When she had tests, she would walk into the room and say a motivational statement like, "I am going to do well on this test!" in order to create a positive mindset. She even goes out of her way to say hello to her sibling whenever she sees him in school. It has been a pleasure and so easy to teach this student.

#### **The Right Thing** - poem by a student

This student walks in with a smile everyday  
And touches other people in many ways  
Then Student Council said it was jersey day  
And I did not have one to wear around  
But knowing this student without a doubt  
She opened her backpack and said to me  
I brought an extra in case a friend needed one  
Would you like to wear this jersey  
This is just one example of how this person is great to me  
And may other human-beings  
This is why she deserves the Do the Right Thing



**Adrianna Bolten and Landon DeBoer- 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

These two students are dependable, kind, conscientious, enthusiastic, and thoughtful. They listen carefully and always put forth their best effort in all classes. They are eager to participate and willing to work with any of their classmates with a big smile on their face. They graciously accept advice from teachers because they are eager to improve themselves and remain humble when receiving praise. They both show a willingness to help anyone in a polite and respectful manner."

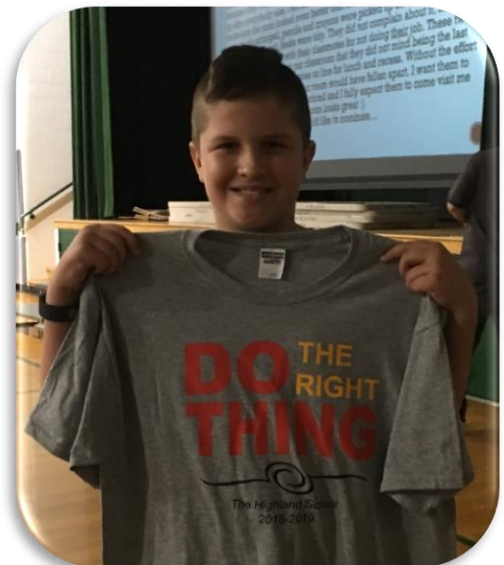


**Olivia Fallon- 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

This student is very nice and respectful to her teachers and classmates. She works hard all the time and is humble about her abilities. She is easy going and willing to work with any of her classmates with a smile on her face. This student consistently completed her classwork and homework. All year she made good choices when it came to her school work and interacting with her peers.

**Teddy Parker- 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

When this student entered the fifth grade hallway in September, it was obvious that school was NOT his favorite place to be. We knew it would be a challenge to get him to see how great of a kid he was. After a few weeks of a rough transition and a few good chats about how much potential we saw in him we started seeing some changes. While we encouraged him along the way, the changes he has made are truly his own. Once a student who never asked for help, he now requests it when he needs it. Once a student who did not seem happy to be at Highland, now walks the hallway with a smile on his face. Once a student who didn't care about work or grades, he is leaving fifth grade with a remarkable report card. He is definitely the student who has made the most positive change for himself this school year. We are proud to nominate....



### Eva Hagan and Shane O'Shea- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Two students in our classroom put forth tremendous effort this school year in keeping our classroom running smoothly. Each and every day, as students were seated on the carpet, these two kids were always the last to join us — not because they were not listening to directions, but because they were cleaning up after everybody else. I am sure this must have been frustrating at times. They made sure the room looked even better than the way the day started: Flex Seats were neatly arranged, pencils and crayons were picked up off the ground, drawers were closed, desks were tidy. They did not complain about it, nor did they get upset or angry with their classmates for not doing their job. These two students took such pride in our classroom that they did not mind being the last ones to the carpet or the last ones on line for lunch and recess. Without the effort these students demonstrated, our room would have fallen apart. I want them to know their efforts did not go unnoticed and I fully expect them to come visit me next year to make sure our classroom looks great :)



For these reasons and more, I would like to nominate...

### Juan David Cuervo- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

I would like to recommend this student for “Do the Right Thing”. He comes in every morning, smiling and cheerful, and ready to learn. He quickly and quietly unpacks, does his lunch count/attendance and checks for morning work. He does all this without having to be prompted or reminded.

This student is always ready to learn and listens to directions the first time they are given. He asks for clarification if needed and then starts the activity. He takes his time and strives for accuracy.

This person is always focused and consistently does his best. He voluntarily takes on challenging tasks and will independently try different ways to solve the problem. If he can't, he does not become frustrated but instead asks for guidance, and then continues with his work. Upon finishing an activity he is always willing to help/guide other students who need assistance.

Having an excellent work ethic does not define him. He is not one to complain about other students, but will stand up for himself/others if he thinks something is wrong. He is always considerate of others, has a great sense of humor, and always finds something to smile about.



**Ian Grayson- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

The boy I'm nominating is in third grade  
But he acts more mature.  
You might even think by the way he behaves,  
That he is in grade 4.



In the gym it's hard to find  
A boy who is happy win or lose.  
But this boy is so talented,  
He would be the player I would choose

He is helpful to his classmates  
And has the best outlook on life.  
With the great attitude that he has  
He will never feel any strife.  
I appreciate this boy very much  
And the smile that is always on his face.  
He is positive no matter what  
He handles himself with such grace.

This kid is kind and thoughtful,  
And never has a bad word to say.  
I appreciate that he is honest and humble,  
By the way, his last name starts with gray.

Continue to be the kid you are,  
You are an awesome human bein'  
In the gym, the classroom, it doesn't matter,  
This student's name is...!

**Alexa Hermanns- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Sometimes you find talent in areas you didn't know you had. This student was awesome in every exploratory she did, whether it was woodworking, STEAM, creative math, or writer's workshop. She has way more talent than she gives herself credit for. This student can doubt herself and may think she blends in, but she needs to see herself the way her teachers do - kind, smart, hardworking, and creative. This student will definitely be missed.



**Vanessa Velasquez- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

This student has gone through a lot of change this year. Some of you may have heard it in her speech at the 6th grade promotion. In September she wouldn't have had the courage to do that. That great kid was in there all along and now she is more comfortable sharing that with other people. Everybody at Highland has always seen it, so hopefully it continues on next year.



**Finneas Eliya- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Everybody can have a rough time at school, but this boy faced his adversity head-on in a mature way and bounced back to have a fantastic year. He showed up ready to work every day. He is conscientious - he stays after class every day to make sure every last piece of sawdust is cleaned up and every tool is put back in its proper spot in woodworking. He works hard to make sure everything is done right and is on track to be successful. Good luck in 7th grade...



**Carter Grande – 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

It's easy to look up to someone athletically if they are bigger, stronger, and faster than their classmates. This next student is definitely a gifted athlete, but he should be looked up to academically and behaviorally as well. He has made either honor roll or principal's list all year and never missed a homework assignment. He is soft-spoken (which some of his friends can learn from), thoughtful, and a generally well behaved kid who could also break your ankles on a basketball court. We would like to nominate...



**Elissa Adamo- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

I want to nominate this extraordinary young student for the Do The Right Thing. She walks into class everyday with a smile on her face. She is always prepared for class and is ready to learn. She manages to handle all of her activities including band, enrichment and marching band. She maintains her impeccable grades while managing with her siblings as well.

Because she is in Enrichment Mr. Galasso picked her to help with the Jump Rope for Heart in Godwin. I heard from many teachers that she was very kind with the other kids. She played rock paper scissors with a kid who was feeling sick. He felt sad that he couldn't participate in any of the games but immediately felt OK when she came. She quickly brought his mood up and was laughing because of how many times he beat her. There was another one who was vertically-challenged and was getting very angry. She quickly calmed him down and taught him how to hula-hoop. She is constantly doing the right thing everyday without even thinking about it. This girl truly deserves it more than anyone.



**Santiago-Rivas Benitez- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Maturity. It comes at different times for different people. That understanding that the world does not revolve around you, that life isn't always fair, that you step up and take responsibility for your actions. You lead, you help, you smile whenever life is going your way and do your best even when it isn't. You dream big and don't get in your own way with foolish behavior and silly excuses. One young man stood out this year as the most mature, positive student in the sixth grade. Any of his peers following his example would benefit. Santiago Rivas-Benitez more than deserves to be recognized for doing the right thing every single day.

