

Do the Right Thing Awards

November 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.

Landon DeBoer- 5th grade

This young man consistently tries his best, has a smile on his face, and shows kindness and respect to his peers and adults. He works hard on his academics daily, always putting forth his best effort. He is responsible and is always willing to help those around him. He definitely knows the difference between right and wrong and makes the right choice in ALL situations.

We recently went on a field trip. I had overheard him saying kind things to his classmates throughout the day. He wasn't doing this to be noticed, it's just the type of person he is. I don't think he even knows I heard him. One of the things that especially jumped out at me was when he noticed a classmate got told we were switching to the next activity just as it was coming up to be her turn to go again. When we got to the next activity he patted the student on the back and said with a big smile, "You definitely deserve to go first." He had known she didn't get to go at the last station and was more than willing to let her go in front of him on this new activity. Again, he didn't even know that I noticed this. It truly warmed my heart to watch this act of selflessness and kindness. I stopped what I was doing and immediately sent his mom a DoJo message to tell her I was so proud of him for what he had just said and done. For these reasons and more, it is a great honor to nominate



Zeel Patel – 6th grade

This 6th grade girl is an example to her peers.

She has such incredible patience when some would be impatient. When working in small groups, she makes sure that everyone is on the same page and everyone understands the lesson, even going as far to reteach it to them if needed.

She is thoughtful and caring to those who need it as well, volunteering her time for children in need.

She is always present and engaged when some are mentally elsewhere from time to time.

The 6th grade team agrees that this student is a pleasure to teach.



Luke Graham- 4th grade

I would like to nominate a student of mine for a Do The Right Thing Award. This student's actions, compassionate behavior, and respect towards others is astounding. On Halloween day, we were completing Halloween themed character trait task card activity. The students were working in small groups. This student was working with another student that was having trouble filling their responses into the small answer box on the recording sheet. When walking around the room, I noticed that this student had taken the initiative to walk over to our class supplies and grab a lined sheet of paper for the other peer. Upon returning to his group, this student then helped the other student get organized and made sure that the student understood the answer based on the evidence from the task card.

Not once did this student complain about being behind in their work, or because they had to help out a peer. With compassion, maturity, and collaboration, this student selflessly helped out a classmate. This student did this because it was the right thing to do and for that I would like to nominate



Lexi Kakolewski – 3rd grade

I would like to nominate an exceptional, kind student for a Do the Right Thing Award. She is conscientious and hard working ALL THE TIME. She is a quiet leader who is well accepted and appreciated by her classmates. No matter who she works with, the job gets done, and gets done well. She goes above and beyond our expectations all the time. If we ask for one chart in her notebook, she makes 3, she does extra assignments and stories because she has a love of learning and desire to be her best.

She leads by example without saying a word. Her kind disposition is an inspiration to both her classmates and teachers. She is extremely helpful around the classroom, and not only keeps her own supplies in good order, but always then goes on to make sure our shared supplies and tables are neat and orderly. Each morning, she makes sure our lunch count is done, and even imports it into Power School, carefully including the names of students who ordered doubles, and reminding students who forgot to sign up.

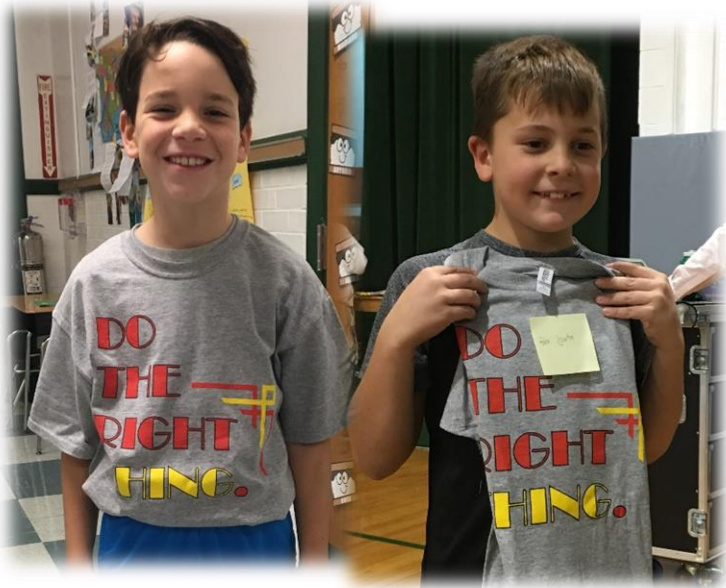
Our entire class has embraced a new student who just moved here from El Salvador, and everyone has been kind, accepting, and patient as she learns our language. This girl in particular has gone above and beyond, and often chooses to work with her in groups and is like having another teacher in the room. For all these reasons and more, we are honored to nominate



Ben Junta and Will Dell'Aglio- 3rd grade

Third graders have been hard at work identifying character traits. Tenacious, self-motivated, hard-working, responsible, dependable, and cheerful are all words that describe these two students who are so deserving of Do the Right Thing awards. These young men are **tenacious** because they seek out challenges and push themselves daily. They persevere when times get tough. They tackle obstacles head-on with their positive, go-getter attitudes.

These students are **self-motivated** and **hard-working**. They consistently ask themselves, "How can I make my work better?" They seek risks and celebrate when they are successful, but they are able to laugh at themselves if they make mistakes. Then, they simply go back and try again.



They are **responsible** and **dependable** because they can be counted on to get any job done to the best of their abilities. Their classmates can rely on them to offer words of encouragement and support when they need it most. I often hear them whisper uplifting phrases to their peers such as, "You've got this" or "Do your best". These two students treat their classmates as part of the family that we are. Our go-to phrase is, "Teamwork makes the dream work." These two young men live by this quote each and every day.

Last, but not least, these two students **cheerfully** greet me with their friendly smiles and an eagerness to learn every morning. They do the right thing even when nobody is watching. Room 216 would not be the same without them...

Lauren Trotta- 5th grade

The cool thing about humans is that we are all so different. We like different things and we learn in different ways. In a classroom setting, we try as teachers to mix things up to engage and reach all students keeping in mind all these unique qualities, talents, and styles of learning. Even with all that in mind though, sometimes the classroom doesn't offer all possible opportunities to really see someone shine.

The 5th grade has the amazing opportunity to go on a ropes course field trip. In many cases this trip pushes all of us outside of our comfort zone. It requires teamwork and perseverance and in many cases courage. MANY of our students impressed us during this trip. Their enthusiasm to tackle obstacles was truly inspiring, but one student stood out more than others. This particular student is usually focused and quiet in the classroom, and I mean QUIET, like give a mouse a run for its money, quiet. She will share ideas, and she'll work with a group, but her demeanor is always one of serious composure that says, "I'm here to learn." That in and of itself day in and out makes her a successful student and an asset to our classroom.

But this day on the ropes course, she was FIERCE. She tackled everything with a contagious, encouraging, brave, and LOUD manner. She scaled telephone poles and walked the high walk multiple times and cheered on others to do the same. We were blown away to see this side of her in action.

To know that she can be focused and serious and also a fireball when faced with challenge was truly impressive. For her consistent approach to her learning in the classroom and her outstanding ferocity on the ropes course, we nominate



Mrs. Brennan and Sophie Mahoney:

Sophie Mahoney, one of Midland Park's own students, came back from college and spent her summer creating a masterpiece mural to honor Mrs. Brennan's 46 years of service. It incorporates so many artists from different time periods in a fantastic collage. It is an amazing mural and I would strongly encourage you to see it out and take a look—you can get lost in it.

