

Do the Right Thing Awards

February 2020

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.

Lexi Reyes- 3rd grade:

Self-Motivated (adjective): motivated to do or achieve something because of one's **own enthusiasm**, without needing pressure from others.

The student I am nominating for a DTRT award demonstrates self-motivation daily. She **consistently** puts forth her best effort into everything she does — from the pride she takes in contributing to partnerships and group presentations, down to her persuasive essay about why third graders should have lunch first all year long. Not only does this student apply strategies taught in class to her own independent work, but she has the ability to take her thinking to the next level and demonstrates that in a multitude of ways. The effort she puts into her Reader's and Writer's Notebooks not only exceeds her teacher's high expectations, but even Highland School's expectations. Effort is something that cannot be taught. **It has to come from within.** Effort takes dedication, self-discipline, and determination. She has all of these qualities. This student's enthusiasm towards learning goes beyond what can be expressed in a DTRT nomination. She is a role model to all, and a humble one at that. She does not try to be seen, **which makes her even more recognizable.** This student undoubtedly makes a positive difference in the lives of all who know her.



Jailynn Suarez- 5th grade:

This student has been so diligent throughout the year and it shows they truly do value their education. They always put forth 100% effort in everything that they do. They also work extremely well with others and consistently advocates for our students in the Hearing Impaired program. Overall, we are so proud of this student and their effort. It is for this reason and many more that we nominate



Neil Dhalwani – 6th grade:

I would like to nominate a student for the Do The Right Thing recognition because he is prepared, focused, cooperative, conscientious about completing his work and very respectful toward teachers, aides, and his classmates. This student is not only a member of the Highland School band but he also has significant athletic commitments outside of school.

He takes advantage of other extra curricular activities, too. He studied the 400 words for the Highland School Bee in order to participate, he has entered the Invention Convention every year since 2nd grade, and is ready to help out whenever anyone asks.

I am impressed with his time management skills. Even though he may have spent hours during the week training or an entire weekend competing at a swim meet, I have never heard him say he was unable to finish his school assignments.



It is for these reasons I would like to nominate 6th grade student:

Heidi Marcus – 5th grade:

Day in and day out students amaze me. Usually on a daily basis it's in small ways, whether it's just a quick kindness in loaning someone a supply, or a subtle point to a direction to help them on on track, or encouraging words as they work on a project. But then every once in a while there's a moment where a student makes me catch my breath in awe. Those moments are precious. This past December, I was lucky enough to have such a moment.

In the days leading up to the walkathon for Mrs. Smith, one of my students approached me first thing in the morning. She simply and quietly asked if she should just write her own name on the "donor" line if she had taken it from her own piggy bank. I told her "yes," and she returned to her desk to write out the form. When I returned to my desk, I found her form and donation. I was blown away to discover, not just a few dollars, but \$104.

I spoke with her and soon after her with her mom. What I learned was that she had been saving up for something special. Something important. When she heard about Mrs. Smith, she decided THIS was something important. "She needs it more than I do," is what I was told. Wow.

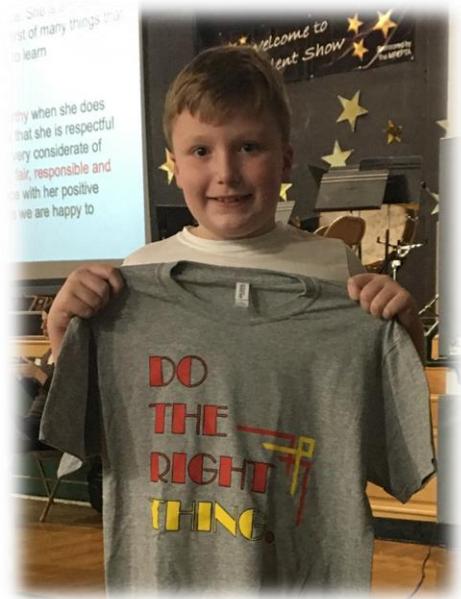
Her SELFLESS deed, literally moved me to tears. I was profoundly touched by her COMPASSIONATE act, and I was immensely impressed with the HUMBLE way in which she went about giving it. At no point was there any recognition sought; it was truly a gift from her GENEROUS heart. It's this type of action that makes the world a better place--not the giving of money, but the act of thinking of others first. Her actions directly helped Mrs. Smith, but she also went on to inspire our class which raised over \$500 in the days that followed.

So often in this world people get wrapped up in thinking of themselves first, but imagine if we remembered that we're here to help others. To me, her actions epitomize what these assemblies are all about. She humbly stepped up and sacrificed for a fellow human in need. I'm so proud to know her, and I feel incredibly lucky to be her teacher.



Matthew Buttino- 4th grade:

Since the first day we met this student, he has been a shining example of what it means to “do the right thing.” He shows a genuine respect for his learning and school community by investing an equal amount of time to both his academics and his connections with those around him. His grades are always a solid reflection of dedication, and he encourages and supports his peers when they need a little extra help. This earns him well-deserved respect. His mature, thoughtful, and angelic presence is always welcomed and highly appreciated! Half of the school year has passed, and he has *never* been asked to “clean up,” “be nice,” “do your homework,” or “follow directions.” His most outstanding trait is that he is modest in his thoughtfulness, meaning he does the right thing *always* - even if he thinks no one is watching. This wonderful young man is...



Asca Vagas-Gomez- 4th grade:

This student continually comes to school with a smile on her face. She is a model student, both behaviorally and academically to her peers. The first of many things that stands out to us is her humbleness. This student comes ready to learn and truly appreciates what it is to receive an education.

This student portrays the 6 Pillars of Character. She is trustworthy when she does what she says she will do and is always honest. She displays that she is respectful when she speaks to others with manners. She is also always very considerate of others around her. This student also shows that she is caring, fair, responsible and displays good citizenship. She makes the school a better place with her positive outlook and always following the rules. These are the reasons we are happy to nominate...



Mattia Thomson- 6th grade:

This 6th grade girl is simply one of the kindest students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. She is the definition of Doing the Right Thing. For example, during the Walk-A-Thon fundraiser back in December for Mrs. Smith, this student brought in a tremendous amount of money. The outpouring of support was shown district wide with the thousands and thousands of dollars that were raised for someone in need. This student in particular brought in over \$400 all by herself. That kind of selflessness speaks volumes about the kind of person she is and the kind of impact she is going to make going forward in her life. Her compassion, intelligence, goofiness (the good kind), maturity, etc do NOT go unnoticed by her teachers.



Gideon Eliya – 6th Grade:

There are probably countless students who attend a DTRT assembly and secretly wonder if they get noticed. Do my teachers see that I work really hard to do well? Sure, I'm kind of quiet, but I'm a good kid. I don't complain or waste time thinking up excuses. I just do my work and turn it in on time. Sure, I don't like presenting in front of everyone, but I'll just take a deep breath and get it done. I mind my manners. I'm pretty nice to everyone. Am I on the right track? Could it be me today? Yes, its time for you to know that we appreciate you giving your best and regularly doing the right thing.

