

# Do the Right Thing Awards

April 2022

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.

## Chase Richards- 4<sup>th</sup> grade:

This young man is incredibly **fair**. He gives credit where credit is due. He consistently notices and **compliments** other kids' achievements. He has no problem telling other kids they did something amazing. He also makes sure that everyone gets a turn and **offers to go last** when others rush to be first. He follows the rules and willingly accepts **responsibility**, plus he always has a positive attitude. He articulately explains why something is "the right thing to do".

He elevates the mood in a room. He's a pretty amazing kid.

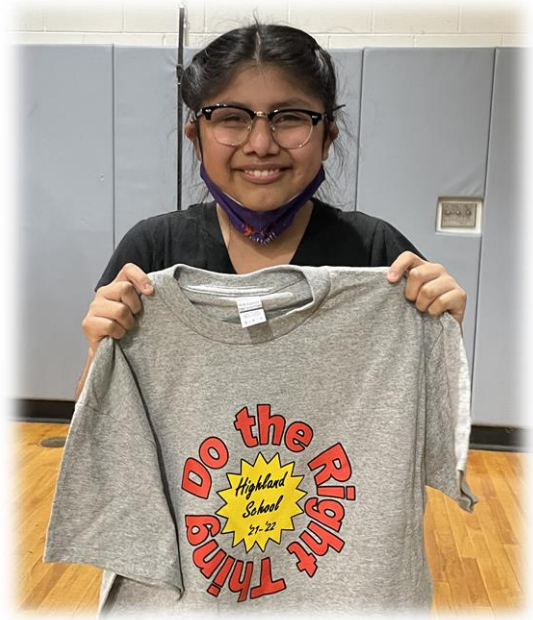


## Finley Fells- 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

The young lady was amazing working with a HIP student during virtual instruction. It can be hard doing virtual instruction, but even harder for a hearing impaired student. She walked her through step by step what to do, moved the camera to make sure she saw everything from home and then explained that when she gets back to school, her seat will be next to her so she will help her again. Please nominate...

**Margie Gonzalez- 5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

This student's selflessness and generosity was exhibited when she discovered that money was being collected for a family in need in the community. Without hesitation, this student's immediate response to finding out this information was, "Would you take pennies?". The very next day, this student came to school with her piggy bank in her backpack, ready and willing to donate her entire savings to a family in need; without even knowing who this family is!!! Her kindness brought tears to my eyes as she never bragged about giving her money to anyone or even asked if the family knew about her donation. She didn't do this for praise or recognition. She gave because in her heart, she instinctively knew it was the right thing to do. In a world where we need to support one another and lift each other up, this student gives me hope for our future!



**Hudson Young and Amir Newman- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

I am happy to nominate two very deserving students in our classroom for a "Do the Right Thing" award.

Both students have gone above and beyond in numerous ways since the very first day of school. They can always be counted on to lend a helping hand to their teacher and classmates. Their classmates depend on them if they are feeling stuck and both students happily help without ever complaining. Additionally, they are prepared with what they need **when they need it** (and often without having to be asked). These students "Do the

Right Thing" daily without ever looking for recognition.

Both students persevere and put forth their best effort across all subjects. One of them even counts down the minutes until recess is over so he can continue learning, growing, and challenging himself.

Both students eagerly walk down the hallway each morning with their notebooks in hand, ready to unpack and start their day. Their smiles, enthusiasm, and love for learning are infectious. It brings me tremendous joy to come to work every day and teach students who are so willing to learn and, most importantly, willing to put in the work. Our classroom would not be the same without them!

For these reasons and many more, these students have earned a "Do the Right Thing" award.

**Leonangel Rosa-Tejada- 6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

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**Ben Tanglao and Alex Jaje- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

I happened to be in the cafeteria yesterday and I noticed that there was a girl who crying alone at her table. As I started to approach, I saw two boys that were in the process of asking if they could move their seat so she wasn't alone and to possibly console her. They proceeded to spend a portion of their lunch time trying to cheer her up and get to the root of the problem. When I commended both boys for their selfless act they acted as though it was just a simple gesture. It was, but the impact was tremendous.

After telling this story to their teacher, I soon realized that this was not an isolated incident. Their teacher said that both boys are constantly helping their peers on a regular basis. They are always looking to help others and are so inclusive to all the students that push into their class.



**McKenna Whalen- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

This student came to our school/class this past November. She came in smiling and ready for a new adventure. She comes to school each day with a smile on her face and brings such positive energy to our classroom. No matter what we are doing in class, this young girl is always focused on her task, even when it is difficult. She does not need to be told directions twice, she just buckles down and goes to work.

This student works great with the other kids in the class. Not just academically. She has a lot of patience and is always cheering up or cheering on her classmates whenever they need it. This student will go out of her way to help another student when she notices that they are in need. She is aware of their feelings and is always there to help. She does not do this for attention, but simply because it is the right thing to do. She never looks for attention or praise for doing this. For this reason, we nominate.....



**Jack Hagan-4<sup>th</sup> grade:**

This student is a shining example of what it means to “do the right thing.” With every assignment he challenges himself to do better than the last time, which helps him continually progress. He stays engaged during learning and is fearless about participating during class discussions. He’ll enthusiastically raise his hand with every question that is asked! This student also shows he values his relationships with peers, giving them his attention, speaking to them with kind words, and encouraging them to be their best. He warmly greets his teachers every day with a “Good Morning, Ms. \_\_\_\_\_” and “Good Morning, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_,” and at the end of the day, he makes sure to say goodbye. Through these examples and much more, it is clear that this student has a genuine respect for his learning and school community. He invests an equal amount of time to both his academics and connections with those around him. His small, yet consistent,

positive actions make a BIG impact, benefiting everyone and not just himself. We are grateful to have him on our team! This wonderful young man is...

**Joey Horton and Ben Fabish- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:**

This nomination goes to a dynamic duo. Every day, they both come to school and it truly feels that they want to get the most out of each and every day. When it is time to read, they dive right into their book. When it is time to write they are careful and thorough, when it is time to learn math facts they put the time and effort necessary to learn all their facts. But that is not why they have earned this nomination. It is all the little things they do throughout the day. These little things are just because they are good kids not because they are seeking recognition. They say good morning, they say goodbye. When it is time to clean up they are not only looking to organize their own area but those of their classmates. When it is time to pass out materials, they find ways to help without even being asked. If someone nearby needs help they offer help in a quiet way without seeking praise... just because it is the right thing to do. As great athletes, they seem to understand it is not just about being their best but helping to bring up those around them as well.



**Mariana Ilievsky- 5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

“There is no **M**agic to **A**chievement. It’s **R**eally about hard work, **C**hoices, **A**nd **p**ersiste**N**ce.” Michelle Obama

This young lady has shown so much responsibility lately. She recently went to visit family who lives far away. She was gone for a decent amount of time, however, you’d never know if you looked in Powerschool. The day she returned, she immediately asked what she missed. She caught on to a new math lesson with only a 5 minute overview with the teacher. She was participating immediately and focusing on her prior knowledge to work her way through the lessons. She also completed all her make-up work, including 3 quizzes, in less than 24 hours. She did more work in one day than many of her classmates do in one week. She never complained and even completed things that she was not responsible for, just so that she could practice her skills. Her

CHOICE to PERSIST at the HARD WORK she faced is admirable. She definitely deserves a Do The Right Thing award.

**Mia Niebles- 5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

The sun will rise.

Friday will come.

Hot soup will make you feel better.

You will write essays in 5th grade (and like it).

Mr. Galasso will ask which students are doing the right thing.

Mrs. Dolianitis will have a lanyard to match her sneakers.

Miss Thiemann will eat Oreos again.

These are things you can always count on.

With this student we can always count on:

A smile upon entering and exiting the classroom.

Punctuality and preparation that exceeds expectations

Notes that are neat and organized.

Work is not just completed but reflects pride.

Cooperation and kindness extended to any classmate or teacher

A positive attitude to approach each new situation

An idea to share in each discussion

Absolute best effort every single minute of every single day.

This student doesn't just show up every day ready to learn but actually makes the teachers' day better by the way she shows up every day.

It's truly a gift to have a student who can always be counted on in this way.



**McKenna Henderson- 6<sup>th</sup> grade:**

This student has become a steady and reliable student in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Not just academically, where she is excelling, but also socially (which can be even harder). 6<sup>th</sup> grade can be a drama fest unfortunately, but it is nice when there are students that understand mistakes are sometimes made, that things happen or things are said, but there should not be grudges held. One particular time this student was going through a rough patch with another student, shenanigans during football, which was very frustrating for all involved. Though this student was frustrated, it did not deter her from helping him one day. The day after there was a conflict between the two, she saw this young man walking home in the snowy rain. She told her Mom to pick him up and they gave him a ride home. This is an example that we all can learn from. Though conflict happens, it does

not mean we can't still be human to each other. We should forgive and move on and help each other despite history. For this reason I would like to nominate...