

# Highland Do the Right Thing

*June 2023*

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The following are the actual submissions for the Highland School DTRT award which were presented 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.

# Peyton Toro

This student started the year quietly. It seemed she was looking for ways to blend or go unnoticed. It was clear she had incredible potential, but she seemed almost to want to hide it. Looking back over the whole year, we recognize a new confidence in her. We see it in the way she speaks up. Her shy, reflective nature is still there; it's a wonderful part of who she is at the core, but she is also not afraid to step into a leadership role when needed. Recently on our field trip, we noticed that she was an anchor. Sometimes people take the word leader literally, and they assume being a leader means doing it first, but just being ahead of everyone isn't necessarily leading. Good leaders know how to anchor their team. They step back and see where there is a need, recognize what the team is lacking, and then step in to fill that hole. We've seen this more and more. She's leading from behind and encouraging others to move ahead. This quiet leadership has also been seen in the way she looks out for her peers. Whether it's noticing that someone is missing something they need or noticing that someone is not included, she goes out of her way to help. The way she is quietly inclusive is just another level of her leadership. We want to recognize this student because sometimes pushing ourselves outside of our comfort zones is doing the right thing. It's very much like overcoming a fear to help ourselves become stronger, better people. This can be scary and hard and requires maturity. We are so proud of her for accomplishing such great things; for sharing her brilliance, both in mind and spirit. In doing this, she has become a stronger person and inspired others in the process.



# Katie Falciglia

This third-grade student is a leader and a great role model in the classroom. She is patient and accepting of all students and the many different ways of learning. She is also always prepared for class. She is often the one that offers to share her supplies with others when they forget them. Pencils? She's got it. Glue stick? She's got it. Scissors? She's got it. At one point in the school year, every single one of her classmates forgot a pencil. Instead of letting the teacher take off points for coming to class unprepared, this student opened up her pencil case and proceeded to supply each student with a pencil because that is just the type of person she is. She is a hard worker who always tries her best even when the work can be really challenging for her. She will persevere when presented with a difficult task and isn't afraid to ask for help if she needs it. She is kind, caring, and always helps out her classmates. She takes suggestions for herself and puts them to work in all areas of school. She always puts a good effort forward and is the first to cheer on and support other students who are trying too! For these reasons we nominate...







# Katie Salmon

In a large student body, it is not always easy to stand out. Being a “good kid” is easily underestimated and there is one particular student who probably wonders if her excellent manners, friendly disposition, and consistent hard work will ever get her a moment in the spotlight. For being the quintessential good kid, who makes everyone’s day a little bit better, today should be your day to shine. For these reasons and more, I would like to nominate...

# London Hedley-Noble



As we approach our 180th day of school and reflect on how quickly another year has passed, this student jumped out at us for her consistency. Without hesitation we can say that every single day this student gave her all and did the right thing every day. This student always:

- came to class with her supplies. She was ready to go.
- participated in class discussion. She was ready to share.
- engaged in class activities. She was ready to collaborate.
- completed her work on time and with pride. She was consistent and responsible.
- helped her classmates and teachers. She was attentive and kind.

She maturely seems to recognize that her job is to be the best student she can be. She does this by being prepared, following directions, participating in class discussions, and producing her best work, and we can honestly say she did this. Every. Single. Day.

# Mina Tolan



This 6th grader just finished a fantastic year. She puts thought and effort into everything she does. She works well with others. She may be the most present student I have ever taught. She was always engaged (or at least faked it well enough that I couldn't tell) and had a positive attitude. She deserves recognition...



# Anthony Farrington



At the beginning of this student's sixth grade year, it was clear that school was not his favorite place to be. Although he had a rough time transitioning back to school, he began making it a priority to get to school on time every day, started caring about his grades, and worked hard to be the best student he can be. He wants to do well and holds himself to high standards. He is able to take disappointments and turn them into something positive as he sets new goals for himself. We want him to know that his helpfulness does not go unnoticed - each day he is seen either holding the door for others or stays behind to make sure all of the stools in our class are placed back in their proper place. He now enters the classroom in the morning with a smile on his face (most days). He has made a positive change for himself this school year and we hope he has more confidence in himself as he moves on to a new school next year. We are proud to nominate...



# Ella Falciglia

This 6th grade student has consistently worked hard all year long. She has had a positive attitude, sets goals for herself, and pushes herself to achieve those goals. She is always willing to put in the extra practice to get better. She is polite, patient, and a good classmate to all. Day in and day out, she always does the right thing. For these reasons, we would like to nominate...





# Madison Richmond



This 4th grader is a breath of fresh air! She has always done the right thing, making thoughtful choices that benefit not just herself but everyone else around her. Academically she had a fire and quiet determination, eagerly working to evolve and improve. Not even the biggest challenges would stand in her way! Socially, she showed leadership qualities, standing firm in her beliefs without bringing others down. She is a team player who supports her teachers and peers, treating them with the utmost kindness and respect. Most significantly is that she is modest in her actions, never expecting praise or rewards. That is why we want to celebrate her today! This student makes our classroom and school a better place! We are thankful for...



# Noelle Niebles

We would like to nominate these TWO students. They both never stop at their work being “good enough” and always strive to do better. They care about their learning so much that they are willing to make up work they missed when out of the room at home in addition to their homework. These girls are willing to lend a helping hand to any classmates or teachers. These girls consistently say hello and goodbye at the start and end of the day which is a common courtesy that is always noticed and appreciated. Their kind presence will be missed in our 4th grade classes. Congratulations

# Minnie Oosting



# Amir Alkhouja



This student has only lived in America for a short time, yet you might not realize that since they have adjusted so well to Highland School. Learning in another language can be challenging, yet this student has never given up. In French class, this student is always prepared and willing to participate. They present to the class and participate along with classmates. This student shares personal experiences about culture, country, and religion, which benefits everyone. Ever the role model, this student understands what is expected in class and how to show respect to teachers and classmates. This student has shown what it means to persevere and remain positive. For example, their writing has grown more detailed over the course of the year through a lot of hard work. They are quiet, but not to be overlooked. In Theater class, they give every role and activity their all, adding a lot of energy to the class. This student demonstrated what it means to Do the Right Thing at the last DTRT assembly. When another student received her DTRT shirt and was headed back to her seat, this student made sure to congratulate her and showed pride in her award. There was no regret or selfishness in that act, just happiness for another person's happiness. For this reason, we nominate...



# Madalyn Woods



There are many students here at Highland that really work hard at being noticed. From the star of the school play to the kid who can't raise their hand without waving and making noise, kids have their ways of getting our attention. There are a few students, though, who prefer to stay well under the radar. This particular student is smart enough to be a show-off, but instead, sits quietly in the corner, occasionally being brave enough to raise her hand. A bit of attention draws out a shy smile and nothing more. Her work has improved so much as the year went on, she follows every rule, and is unfailingly polite. She may still worry about having eyes on her but has grown so much this year I am going to force her to get up and get this award. I nominate .....

# Keira Zakrzewski



"It is not easy to be new to a district and fit in flawlessly. But this student did just that as outlined in her well done graduation speech. Consider this award recognition for bringing positivity, kindness and hard work into a new setting. We are glad to have you!"