

Highland Do the Right Thing

Nov. 2023

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.



Tristian Osso

In any given PE sports unit we always come across kids of varying levels. One of the most important lessons we try to teach is that everyone's "best" looks different. And just because someone's "best" isn't as good as yours doesn't mean they aren't trying. During our soccer unit, we get to see many kids shine. Kids whose "best" is exceptional. But one of the best qualities of these exceptionally skilled students is their ability to CONTROL their skills. The best athletes in PE are the ones who can adjust their speed and their power in an effort to HELP OTHERS succeed. PE should not be an opportunity to show off. It should be the chance to help elevate your team. And that is what this student did. This 3rd-grade boy, who is excellent at soccer, used his skills to be able to help incorporate all of his teammates. He, of course, had his time to shine and was able to score goals for his team. But I was the most impressed by his awareness of OTHERS. He realized that it was not just about HIM. It was about his TEAM. PE can be hard for kids who don't like or play sports and we try to make everyone feel comfortable but so much of that sense of belonging is brought on by peers. And I know that this boy made several kids feel included and important by giving them an opportunity to be a part of the game. Keep up the good work....

Madeleine Libretta



The start of the school year can be stressful for a teacher, even more so when an injury keeps them from coming to school right from the very first day! While trying to run my class from home as I recover, this student consistently puts others before themselves. They take time out of their class period to help other students in the class who are having issues with assignments or technology on their Chromebook, all while completing their own assignments in a timely manner and at a high level. I'm not sure how the start of the year would have gone if it wasn't for this student and their kind, patient, and selfless acts. For these reasons I'd like to nominate...

Kevin Moylan



Makes good choices every day

Outstanding role model to his classmates

You can always count on him to help others

Loves the New York Mets

Always ready to learn and solve problems

Never gives up

For all these reasons and more, we would like to nominate

Angel Aencha



It is never easy to move to a new school. In sixth grade, not knowing any of the other kids is just one part of the challenge. From day one, you have to follow a complex, color-coded schedule, get yourself from class to class on your own, and learn how to open a combination lock. All the teachers have different personalities and expectations. No one seems to know where they're going. Everyone has a Chromebook except you and when you finally get one, none of the passwords are set up! There are so many new things to handle that it is impressive when a student can do so much with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. This student has adjusted her learning style, asked the right questions, and does her best every single day. For this reason, we would like to recognize....

Matthew Fallon



This 4th grade student has impressed us with his respect and enthusiasm for his educational experience. He is always “in the moment” and present when learning, soaking up information like a sponge. He listens attentively to others and actively engages in activities, responding efficiently and appropriately. You can feel his eagerness to gain as much knowledge as possible from others, reaching for only the highest of expectations. When he shares his own knowledge, he is thoughtful and humble, and a great supporter of his classmates. He encourages them with an open mind, and if they need a friend, he is there by their side with an open heart. For example, one time out of many daily acts of kindness, this student recognized a peer sitting alone and invited that peer over to his table. He also uses kind words such as “excuse me” and “thank you.” We want him to know how much we appreciate him! Thank you for doing the right thing...

Bridget McCarthy



This student has shown her dedication to learning from the first day of school. No matter the task's difficulty, she strives to do her best. She consistently follows directions and leads class discussions. The amount of effort and dedication she puts into her learning is commendable, and she sets a positive example for her peers. Not only does this student care about her learning, but she also demonstrates kindness and respect towards her peers, teachers, and classrooms. She always greets teachers when she walks into a room and thanks them when she leaves. One day after a science lab, this student asked a teacher if she could miss recess to help clean up the messy room. She inspired two other students to say during recess to clean the slime-filled science lab. She is truly an all-star, and her teachers feel lucky to have her in their classes. This kind-hearted girl is...

Devin Woods



As educators, we always hope to have a student in our class who is enthusiastic to work with everyone; who genuinely cares about others, and will quietly help their classmates without recognition. They can be partnered with anyone in the class without any problem; they know what it means to cooperate. This person remains true to themselves, their interests, their talents, and their friends.

This student is a unique character who is sometimes referred to as the “Mayor of Highland”. He walks the hallways greeting each person he comes in contact with, while following up his greeting with a question such as, “How are you? Or how is your day going?” He is equally as friendly to his peers and goes out of his way to sit with someone who is alone or to check on a person who seems upset. His empathetic manner and insightfulness are something that is rare for a student his age. Empathy means having an understanding of how others are feeling. He always uses this skill to do right by our school community- adults and students alike. This fifth grade student has the biggest heart, and we feel so proud and lucky to know them.

Mason Farrington

Little things go a long way. Being polite. Paying attention in class. Having a positive attitude. This 6th grade student is always doing the little things right. One shining example would be in Video Editing where he would go out of his way to assist students who needed it, which was a huge help for Mrs. Williams. He is locked in during every lesson in his core classes and it shows in his work.

The student is..



Kady Stein



When it comes to **common courtesy** this kid has it covered. This student greets her teachers every morning with a friendly smile. She always walks into class with all her needed supplies, prepared and ready to learn. She **actively participates** in class. Even though her hand is always up to participate in class discussions, she **never whines** or demands the floor. She **shares** the spotlight or even willingly gives it up for someone else.

She is **kind, considerate, respectful, reliable,** and **helpful**. She is incredibly **dedicated** to being a successful student, friend, and human being. She **strives for excellence** and seeks clarification when needed. She's quick to step up and help her classmates and her teachers. We can truly always count on her to be doing the right thing.

Hailey Salinas



This student is incredibly kind and has a positive attitude. She always champions other kids. When someone is struggling, she lifts them up. When they succeed, she cheers them on. If she ever encounters any difficulties, she pushes through with a smile. When she is successful, she never brags. She has a smile and friendly hello for everyone she meets. To top it all off, she has beautiful manners. She is a role model for others. We proudly nominate her for a Do The Right Thing award.

Penelope Chiodo



This student is highly motivated to do the right thing! This student has taken full responsibility in their role as being trustworthy since the beginning of fourth grade. This student works hard, uses opportunities to help their classmates and teachers. There is not a day that goes by where this student is not reaching out a helping hand. Throughout the day, this student helps classmates by supporting them and guiding them to complete assignments not by giving them the answers but by helping them locate the information to complete their work. Every assignment or task, 100% is given, and perseveres through challenges. Our classroom family unit is better because of this student's positive presence. At the end of the day, this student stays a few minutes beyond the bell to help organize and clean our classroom in order to be prepared for the next day. We are so proud of this student and that is why we are nominating

Recognition for
going above and
beyond for
Highland School.



Ms. Mary Oates

Who teaches the teachers how to be better teachers? Better yet, who helps teach the Principal how to be a better Principal?

Although this professional is working behind the scenes and not directly in the classroom, everything she does in the school is at the forefront of what is happening in the classroom in Math and ELA, but also in the school in general. I want you to know, there is no bigger advocate for you kids when it comes to learning. She holds the teachers and Principal to the highest of standards. She forces us to do better, and better educators for ALL OF YOU. Not for recognition, not for money, but because she cares about children. It is time to bring this person from the shadows and into the spotlight to recognize her tremendous work and dedication to the students and staff of Midland Park. We would not be the same without her.