

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Aubree Aranzazu
School: Cutler Elementary School, Cutler

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Megan Thiessen

One thing you can say about Miss Aubree is that she treats others the way she wants to be treated. I am not her normal teacher, but I had the opportunity to teach her class for a short time. During that time, Aubree shined above all else. If there were questions by one of her teammates, she would help them to the best of their ability. Where she really shines though, is when she helps those who are afraid to ask a question aloud in class. She sits with a couple of students who are a little shy. I could see that they needed extra support but I knew they would not speak up. Aubree chose to ask those questions for them aloud, even though she knew the answers already. Seeing this kindness toward others made my teacher's heart just shine with pride. Wow, how amazing is it to see a student going out of their way to help others when they are too nervous? This leadership and respectful behavior needs to be recognized and used as an example for others. It is great to see students make such powerful choices in the classroom that will make a lasting presence for others.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**

Student Name: Amalia De La Cruz
School: Dinuba High School, Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Brice Sandri



Amalia has been a class leader since she started at Dinuba High. She demonstrates responsibility among many other qualities. Amalia continually puts others before herself. Amalia is apt to help her fellow classmates anytime they are in need of help. When other students are not doing what they are supposed to do, she stays poised and on track. She is very focused and will do her “job” no matter what the circumstances, be it she’s home sick joining class via zoom or sitting in class. While at school, Amalia lives by a classroom phrase to continually “fill someone’s bucket, not take away”, this comes from a story that is referred to often. In other words, even if a student is bugging her she holds herself accountable to stay humble, kind, and to fill his or her bucket with nice words. Amalia is an incredibly good person and deserves the proper recognition!

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Emilio Aguilar
School: Grand View Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): David Parker

Emilio is the brother of one of my former students. I knew at once, who he was, because his good manners, behavior, and responsible approach to school were evident as was the case with his brother. Recently, Emilio's older brother has become very ill, and I know that the situation is putting stress on him and his family. He continues to be an exemplary student and shows up every day ready to learn. Even with the added stress of dealing with his brother's illness, he is a hardworking and responsible student. I believe Emilio would be an excellent candidate for the Character Counts Award.

Respectfully submitted,
David Parker
Fifth Grade Teacher

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Julissa Ramirez
School: Jefferson Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Mark Newlin

I would like to nominate my student Julissa Ramirez for The Kids of Character Awards. Julissa exemplifies the pillar of Responsibility. Julissa arrives at school ready to learn, she turns in her work on time, which is always nicely written out and complete. Julissa is also responsible for the computer lab in her classroom. She collects Chromebook and places them inside the computer lab, connecting them to the chargers, and ensuring that the computer lab is securely locked at the end of the day.

Julissa is a very reliable student as well. There are times when, being her teacher, I need extra help with students and their Chromebook, and she is one I can always rely on for helping me out. She also holds herself accountable with her schoolwork and is a high achiever in both Reading and Math.

Julissa likes to help other students too. For example, I have seen Julissa take the initiative on her own to help other students who seem to be struggling. There are other times I have seen Julissa take the initiative to better herself. For example, she chooses higher-level readers within her AR range to read, as well as learning her multiplication and Math facts.

Overall, Julissa Ramirez is a great student. She displays great character, holds herself to high standards, and loves to learn. I feel privileged to nominate Julissa Ramirez for The Kids of Character Awards.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Isaac Gonzalez
School: Lincoln Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator(s): Tara Bustamante

Isaac Gonzalez has been recognized by others to be very trustworthy. Once, a community member reached out to me in order to praise him for finding and returning personal property of theirs. He consistently shows good manners and can be trusted to make the right decision, even when the decision is not easy. Isaac is a developing leader.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Christoval De Leon
School: Roosevelt Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Rosa Popp

Christoval is an exemplary student who demonstrates respect for ALL students. He consistently assists peers without being asked, especially those with a learning impairment. When Chris observes a peer who may need assistance, he does not hesitate. Whether it is helping with a technology issue, guiding peers on how to tie a shoelace, encouraging others with kind words, and reminding them to have a "Growth Mindset" he does amiably. Even in the toughest of times, Chris has remained respectful and is a student of true integrity.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Samuel Diaz
School: Wilson Elementary School, Dinuba

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Estela Palafox

Have you ever been positively shocked by a student? I was recently positively shocked by Samuel Diaz, a fourth grader at Wilson Elementary School in Dinuba. Samuel was the winner of a backpack giveaway at our school and that is when it all started. One August afternoon, our learning director, Chad Morton, came into our classroom to announce that Samuel had won a backpack. The entire class was excited for him because the backpack was full of school supplies. After we all congratulated him, we thought that was going to be the end of it. No, it was not the end of it because, to my surprise, Samuel started to open his backpack and gave away the supplies to his classmates! Yes, he started approaching students and saying, "Here (student name) you can have this because you don't have any". He continued to do this without hesitation and with much conviction that this was the RIGHT thing to do with the supplies, he did not need. I stopped him and said, "Samuel those are the supplies you won, you don't have to share them," and he replied, "Mrs. Palafox, I already have some and my friends need them so I'm giving them away". I was shocked to hear his response. Samuel was able to see a need and take action to help others. This is genuine kindness in action.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Noah Sandoval
School: Ivanhoe Elementary School, Ivanhoe

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Cheyanne Sholl

Noah is the most respectful 6th-grade boy that I have ever had the privilege of teaching. He shows his manners while speaking and through his actions. He speaks to adults with the most respect that I have ever seen. He is polite and very well mannered. He is definitely the best option for this award for Respect.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Tomas Acosta
School: Kings River Union School, Kingsburg

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Jenny Burrow

Tomas Acosta is an exemplary student in every way. It was hard to choose a pillar that fit his behavior because all of them would have worked. During distance learning, Tomas' good behavior was exemplary. Distance learning was hard on all of us, but especially for students with all of the disruptions and distractions at home for their school zoom time. Tomas was in class every week, always came prepared and with his work finished. Tomas was also helpful in letting me know if his peers were going to miss class for some reason. One zoom session was just Tomas and I (we have a small class as this is the GATE class) and we carried on. I was impressed with his sense of responsibility even for the zoom just before Christmas break. Tomas just recently broke his right wrist in a basketball accident. He continues to come to class with no complaints while having to write with his non-dominant hand. Even through these events and hardships, he keeps on going just like the energizer bunny. Tomas is a dedicated and responsible student who always comes through with his work and good attitude. It is with honor to nominate this fine young man for this Character award.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Liliانا Alonzo Cheluca
School: El Monte Middle School, Orosi

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Kaylee Cardosa

Liliana shows responsibility in and out of the classroom daily. She comes to class prepared and ready to learn and waiting for directions to be given. Liliana participates and is always asking questions about the work that needs to be done. When Liliana was out for quarantine she messaged me daily on what assignments can be done at home to keep her grade up. Liliana also asked to stay after school to finish her work since she knew their home internet was having glitches. It is an honor to nominate this student with such motivation and drive to keep up with her work no matter the situation handed to her.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: James Moreno
School: Esperanza School, Oroquieta

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Karina Martinez

James deserves recognition for the Kids of Character Award, Responsibility because he is always doing his absolute best on his work. He ensures in turning in his homework on time and completing it with his best knowledge. He is organized with all his materials and does a great job of keeping everything clean at his desk.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Cyanna Moran
School: Golden Valley Elementary School, Orosi

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Michelle Cruz

Cyanna Moran is a bright, caring, and excellent leader to her peers here at Golden Valley Elementary. She leads our Golden Valley Pack as a 5th Grade student. She continues to impress me daily with her ability to "Do what is right and fair" at all times. Cyanna follows school expectations inside and outside the classroom. She speaks respectfully to all around her and takes the time to form positive relationships with those she comes across. She completes all daily tasks with a positive attitude and I can always count on her to complete and turn in her homework. Once finished with her class work she takes the time to assist her classmates if they need help. Her peers in class look up to Cyanna. When Cyanna is giving me the "thumbs up" sign that she is ready to learn, her peers follow her lead making classroom management easier. Cyanna's positive attitude for all school subjects tends to rub off on her peers. I can say, "Today we will be starting an informative essay" in which she will respond, "I love writing". I notice others around her who may not feel as confident in a subject will cheer up when this young lady expresses her love for learning. Surely, these qualities of a leader show just how responsible this young lady is!

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Diandre Trevizo
School: Lovell High School, Orosi

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Annaly Araujo

Diandre is a hard working student. She stays after school and encourages her peers to stay for extra help as well. Diandre has been working hard on her cyber high classes at home. She has been doing so well and staying on track that she will be graduating early!

Diandre inspires her peers in her class to try their best in class and inspires them to participate during classroom discussions. She is always on task and asks clarifying questions when needed. She is the definition of a responsible student.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Michelle Pineda
School: Palm Elementary School, Orosi

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Guillermo Moreno

Michelle commits herself daily to help ensure her peers are successful during these tough times. Wearing a mask, playing in a designated area during recess, social distancing, and plexi-glass in the classroom have not stopped this young lady from caring for others. She begins her morning by making sure her peers have a fully charged Chromebook to work on. She also leads her group by supporting them to stay on task. Her caring attitude lifts up her classmates' spirits daily. It is with great appreciation that I nominate Michelle to be recognized for the pillar of Caring.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Margaret Vazquez
School: Monson-Sultana Joint Union School,
Sultana

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Edward Bedoya

Margaret is very helpful to me in my classroom. She has been there to help me with a non-English speaking student. She helps me with translating and helps the student understand the lesson she is working on. Margaret has gone out of her way to help this student both in the classroom and outside (recess and lunch) to fit in and be a part of the daily activities of school.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Aiden Stark
School: Three Rivers Union School, Three Rivers

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Jami Beck

Aiden shows responsibility through his actions. He is motivated and does a great job in the classroom. During DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time, Aiden will get lost in a book. He takes his learning seriously. He has a positive attitude and tries his best. He is always prepared. When I think of Aiden, I think of the word integrity. He always does the right thing when no one is looking. I am proud of Aiden.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Kassandra Zarate
School: Traver Joint School, Traver

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Linda Navarro

Kassandra always has a smile on her face and peaks in my office every morning and afternoon to tell me hello and to have a good day! She is an awesome young lady that is just super sweet and is always willing to help anyone.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Wyatt Hopper
School: Elbow Creek Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Shay Williams-Hopper

Wyatt took on the responsibility of raising a market goat to show at the Tulare County Fair. This was fully his decision. When he first asked, we were hesitant because we thought he might give up and back out on the care portion of the animal. He promised he would take care of the goat and he 100% followed through with his responsibilities. Every day he woke up to walk the goat, groom him, and feed him twice a day. He spent over an hour a day for 5 months caring for the goat. Not once did he complain, or throw a fit. During this time, he played rec baseball and transitioned into travel baseball where the commitment was to practice 3 times a week. Wyatt worked out his schedule so he could do both effectively and give his best effort. Lastly, he received his list of sponsors and had thank you notes written to every sponsor, all 17, the same day it was received. I am so proud of this young man.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Rebecca Orozco
School: Stone Corral School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Susana Haro, Adolfo Hernandez, Dolores Gonzalez

Every morning as I greet the students that are coming to school I am always happy to see Rebecca Orozco. As Rebecca enters campus she always has a positive attitude, she replies with a good morning, have a great day, and she often compliments one of the staff members. I have also witnessed Rebecca demonstrate an astonishing behavior out in the playground during recess and lunch recess. When she sees kids being by themselves she talks to them and asks them if they want to play with her, she socializes with the third graders very well and she is friends with everyone. One day I decided to ask her who taught her to be helpful, respectful, and caring. She responded with "my dad, he said treat people how I want to be treated." I was extremely happy to hear that not only in school, she is learning about building her character traits but her parents are also teaching her and her brother on how to be kids of character. I also have caught her picking up trash without being told and has volunteered to help me pass out hand sanitizer before going back to class. Rebecca Orozco is a student who exemplifies each pillar, I am so eager to see her build her character here at Stone Corral.

She is also a very honest and trustworthy student. She is always quick to call out whenever someone is doing something to hurt another student's feelings. She can always be counted on.

Rebecca is a very sweet and respectful student. She treats her peers with respect on the playground and in the cafeteria. Rebecca gives respect to the adults on campus. It is always a delight to see her on campus.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Xavier Rubio
School: Castle Rock Elementary School,
Woodlake

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Brenda Garver

Xavier has shown all pillars for Character Counts. The one that he most exemplifies is responsibility. Xavier's class has had several different teachers this year, yet he is always doing what he is supposed to do. He takes great care for his learning and behavior while helping others who need it. No matter where he is, in class, in line, at recess, in the library, he is always being a role model and taking responsibility for himself.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Kamila Rubio
School: Francis J. White Learning Center,
Woodlake

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Becky Aguilar

Kamila sets a great example of a hard-working, respectful Kindergarten student. She arrives at school every morning and is ready to start her day. She is a continuous role model of being kind and respectful. She focuses on her schoolwork, what she has to accomplish and complete throughout her day. She is always watching with her eyes on the teacher and listening with her hands in her lap. Kamila is a respectful friend to others. She takes her turn and she shares. She asks for help and loves to help others. Keep up the great work, Kamila! Mrs. Aguilar is proud of you!

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Garrett Alves
School: Woodlake High School, Woodlake

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Stephanie Victorino

I would like to nominate Garrett Alves for Character Counts in the area of Caring. Garrett is a very kind young man. He will often help another student in the classroom that may need a guiding hand to get from one activity or one location to another. If this student has yet to come inside the classroom from brunch or lunch, Garrett will stop what he is doing to go and make sure this student makes his way into the classroom on time.

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2021**



Student Name: Ian Burchett
School: Woodlake Valley Middle School,
Woodlake

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Matthew Barcellos

It is hard to put into words just how incredible a student Ian is. He is kind, respectful, understanding, helpful, and willing. Ian is determined to do the best that he can at all times, and frankly, can be trusted with a master key to any campus within the district. His quality of work is the best, and he truly cares about his impact in the class and on campus. It has been an honor to watch Ian grow, and I am excited to see what the future holds for him.