

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



**Student Name:** Brianna Bello  
**School:** Alpaugh School, Alpaugh

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator(s):** Justine Brown

Brianna has shown she is trustworthy. She is responsible and I can count on her to take things to and from the office. I can always count on her telling me the truth, even if the truth gets her in trouble. She is a good student with a good heart, and it is a pleasure to have her in my class

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**Student Name:** Mateo Lara Beltran

**School:** Alila School, Earlimart

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Riggie Casabar

Mateo is a model student for my classroom. He embodies all of the Character Counts pillars. However, if I have to pinpoint his strongest characteristic from the 6 pillars of character, I'd say he's a responsible student. He is always an outstanding student that will do the right thing before I ask for it. He remembers and encompasses the meaning of responsibility in the classroom and in the playground.

Mateo lines up in class ready to learn. Mateo walks into the class every morning unstacking the chairs and helping others unstack their chairs. He is a model student that exemplifies model behavior that every teacher adores. As the class begins, we always sing along to our morning songs; moreover, Mateo gives other students a chance to speak their opinions, questions, and answers. He politely raises his hand once he feels that others have had a chance.

Throughout the day, I have noticed Mateo fixes the books left unattended in my library and fixes the flexible seating. Moreover, if there is a task that needs to be done, Mateo will jump on the assignment and begin once the teacher says so.

During the playground hours, Mateo takes turns in the swings and playing with the recess equipment. Mateo often collects the equipment from others and picks up those that are left irresponsibly on the playground.

Ultimately, I can say that Mateo is an outstanding student who embodies the character trait of Responsibility because he knows what is right and always does the right thing.

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**Student Name:** Paloma Lopez  
**School:** Earlimart Elementary School, Earlimart

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Yesenia Solis, Guadalupe Ramirez

Paloma has shown responsibility in her academics by always completing her classwork and homework. She was out for one week and would work on our Seesaw activities that I assigned. The Seesaw activities are not mandatory however, Paloma made sure to complete those activities when she was not in school for the entire week. She also used Epic to read and would use other online tools to make sure she was up to speed like her classmates who were able to come to school. She has shown responsibility by asking for her missing assignments and completing them the following day. She is devoted to her academics and is responsible by doing what needs to be completed.

Paloma is very responsible in art class. She is a fantastic example of a model student. Paloma follows directions, has such a positive attitude, and is always kind to those around her.

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**Student Name:** Antony Valencia  
**School:** Earlimart Middle School, Earlimart

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator(s):** Mrs. Eleanor Lopez

Antony is caring and selfless when it comes to his community. I received a phone call on Monday morning from my daughter-in-law informing me that a student of mine was going around the neighborhood asking if they would like him to wash their car(s). My son and daughter-in-law were curious if he was trying to earn money for a cause and surprisingly he just wanted to help the community especially since he had no school due to Labor Day. Antony decided to use his free time to go to neighbors asking them if they needed their car to be washed on a very hot day. For this reason, I feel it is appropriate to nominate Antony Valencia for Citizenship. I am very proud of Antony and I hope he continues to serve his community.

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**Student Name:** Nathaniel Hermosillo  
**School:** Pixley Elementary School, Pixley

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator(s):** Mariela Maravilla

Nathaniel Hermosillo is an extremely trustworthy young man. He is now a fifth grader but last year I was able to see just how trustworthy he could be. Multiple times, Nathaniel looked out for others and demonstrated that he could be honest even when it was not the coolest thing to do. I remember one time in particular when Nathaniel noticed some money on the floor. Instead of picking it up and keeping it for himself, he came to me to tell me that someone was probably missing some money. I was pleasantly surprised by his honesty and asked him who it could belong to. We figured out that it had fallen out of a classmate's backpack, which she was going to use to buy something during recess. I still see him on campus and he is still as kind and honest as ever! Thank you Nathaniel for always being honest and trustworthy!  
-Ms. Maravilla

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**Student Name:** Gizelle Rivera  
**School:** Pixley Middle School, Pixley

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Mariela Maravilla

Gizelle Rivera is one of the kindest young ladies that I have met! I was fortunate enough to have had her in my 4th-grade class 2 years ago and was able to see her last year before she went to middle school. In class, Gizelle always had a smile on her face and was more than willing to help her peers as well as me. She frequently asked me, during HER recess time, if she could help me pass out papers, organize the library, or with grading. Last year, she was kind enough to draw a beautiful baby Yoda and an extremely kind note that she gave me for Valentine's Day. It read, "It was a blessing to have you as a fourth-grade teacher and thank you for teaching me! Keep up the good work!!!" It really made my year! Even though she is a sixth grader now, I will never forget how kind and caring Gizelle is. I wish her the best and stay kind!!  
-Ms. Maravilla

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**Student Name:** Christian Lemus  
**School:** Woodville Union School, Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Yesenia Martinez

I was blessed to serve my students for two years. Last year was a roller coaster with virtual learning and hybrid learning. Yet nothing prepared our class for what happened during our Christmas break. I had met Christian in passing since kindergarten. His name became known in our school for many reasons, but not for good reasons. Therefore, when he started last year, I knew what my year would look like. Yet, when winter came, his family and he went to Mexico. During that trip, Christian lost his mom.

After his great loss, things became hard with him. We started classes partially in person in March, but his behavior escalated depending on his emotions. He would throw chairs, flip tables, curse at students and he would cry remembering his mom. During this time, all my other students had empathy. They would tell me, "Teacher, he is hurting. He misses his mom. Do not get him in trouble. Let him listen to his mom's music." The love all my students had for him was shown, as they would get up and tell him kind words and try to soothe him by rubbing his back or bringing him a tissue paper. All my babies would show such compassion towards him that he would soon cool down and would feel loved.

Fast forward to now Christian has an enormous heart. He is always asking me for a hug and telling us how much he loves us. He has become such a great role model on how we should care for one another. Sometimes I wonder if the love and care his peers gave him stuck to him and now he is a caring human being who loves to give love and big, strong hugs.

Now I can say that the staff knows him not for his past, but for the love he has and how he is always willing to care for others and show his love towards them. Mrs. Renteria, our principal, is so fond of him. She sees the great big heart Christian has. He has touched both of our hearts in many ways.

Blessed to have Christian and all my other wonderful students.



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**Student Name:** Omary Olvera  
**School:** Richgrove School, Richgrove

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Adena Joseph

Omary Olvera has stood out as a very caring individual even when everyone was at home and joining class in Zoom. That is not the ideal way to get to know your students on a personal level, but even in that situation, Omary was great at showing up regularly and participating every day. She has continues to show kindness in 8th grade towards her classmates and teachers, and is a great role model for her peers. I have enjoyed getting to know Omary in person and appreciate her caring personality.



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**Student Name:** Alexander Marroquin

**School:** Tipton School, Tipton

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Tamara Morton

Alex exhibited extreme responsibility throughout the year during the pandemic. He was part of a combination class and when the group was split between the two grade levels and put into Zoom breakout rooms, he was often found leading the group of students in their lessons and conducted himself in a manner that far exceeded his age. In addition to always keeping his group on task, he was also regularly made co-host of Zoom. He would let students in while I was working with groups or if (and when) my internet or computer would throw me out he kept the class going. At one point, when I was working with another group, I popped in on his group to see how they were doing and if they had any questions, I just happened to pop in when one of the other students asked, "Mr. Marroquin, how do we do this math problem?" Instead of stepping in to help, I observed him sharing his screen and correctly assisting the other students, step by step on their math work. I never had to worry when we split into the two grade levels to work. In addition to everything else he did, I occasionally found myself stuck on a technical issue. Having come from a very tech savvy family, he would step in and assist me in figuring out my issue. He is truly an outstanding responsible young man.

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**Student Name:** Martin Urbina-Sanchez  
**School:** Accelerated Charter High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Michelle Reindl, Jill Monitz

Martin is new to my school this year and already I can see that he cares not only about graduating high school but also in helping other students do the same thing. Being an English Language Learner, he understands and empathizes with other EL students. He happily translates and helps other students to complete their schoolwork so that they, too, can earn their credits towards graduation. Martin is a kind and helpful person with a great sunny disposition.

Martin Urbina Sanchez has also demonstrated outstanding citizenship by helping one of his peers who has minimal English. He translates work for his friend and can often be found during RTI time assisting his peer so that he can be successful. He was encouraged to do this in his Integrated Math class by his teacher, but can now be found helping his peers in several of his other classes as well.

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**Student Name:** Belen Jimenez

**School:** Alice G. Mulcahy Middle School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Aubrey Bennett

Belen is the definition of being a student of character. She demonstrates all of the pillars, but picking only one, I would describe her as the student to demonstrate responsibility. I had the pleasure of having Belen in 6th grade and now again as an eighth grader. If she needed help, she would stay after class, her work would be completed days before it was due and it would be complete with much time and effort put into the assignment. On one occasion, Belen in 7th grade came to me and asked if she could use the essay organizers that we used in 6th grade to help with her essay. She took the time to reach out so she could write the best essay she could and found the resources that she knew would help her to be successful. She also would email, and zoom with her 6th grade Math teacher after school to get extra help in her 7th grade math that she may be struggling with, all while in the middle of a pandemic. She is a student who works so hard to make sure she has the best grades she can. Lastly, Belen is now in my yearbook class, she takes pictures of students and activities during school, during break time and is responsible for the camera at the after school sporting events. Belen is a student who demonstrates all the pillars. Inside and out she is a young lady with great character.

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**Student Name:** Eevee Castro  
**School:** Alpine Vista School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Jordan Doherty

Evee Castro is a student who shows up every single day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude. What separates Evee from the other caring students in her class, is her willingness to put others needs above her own. Whenever there is a friend in need, Evee will stop what she is doing, walk to the students who are in need of help, and offer her assistance. Whether it is finding a missing pencil or helping explain an in-class activity, there is not a situation too big nor too small for Evee to extend her caring heart. Evee's presence has become such a vital component of our classroom dynamic, that when Evee is gone, a collective sense of longing can be felt throughout the classroom. If you were to walk in the classroom on a day where Evee is not present, you would hear more than one student say, "I miss Evee." In the midst of additional classroom routines and expectations due to Covid, Evee helps bring a sense of closeness to our classroom community that can be absent at times. Our classroom is a better place because of Evee. The sense of caring Evee has for everyone, whether friend or stranger, is a trait that is not observed in many young students who are in the first-grade. Her selfless mindset will help Evee continue to make lasting social connections within her classroom and school community.

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**Student Name:** Raul Marcos  
**School:** Buena Vista School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Joseph Rivera

It is my honor to recognize Raul Marcos for the responsibility pillar. Raul is a person who repeatedly has demonstrated in and out of the class his ability to get things done. He is someone who is always willing to help his fellow classmates. A moment that truly stood out to me to attest to his character was when he helped pick up leftover sports equipment on the field. He was not told to help; he did this on his own.

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**Student Name:** Sophia Castillo  
**School:** Cherry Avenue Middle School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Ryan Turner

Sophia is quite a soft-spoken individual, but her actions speak much louder! She clearly has a soft and tender heart towards others and you can see this by how she treats them. Usually, when people speak of others that are generous, they generally mean with their money. Sophia is generous with things that are incredibly more valuable than money. She came into my leadership class very timid and scared, but because she knew that sharing her thoughts and her own life experiences with others would be helpful, she vulnerably jumps into sharing about herself. Since she is so honest and vulnerable with what she shares and how she shares, it has encouraged others to share as well and really get the most out of our leadership class. Sophia is just one of the sweetest individuals. She even goes around on her way out of class and straightens other people's chairs because she knows that I like things to be neat. It has been a real blessing to have Sophia in my class.

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**Student Name:** Mariana Renteria  
**School:** Countryside High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Elizabeth Castaneda

Mariana is the definition of responsibility. While in class, she understands that her work comes first before anything else. Being responsible is what attributes to Mariana's good grades and level in our school. When she is out of class or absent, I know that upon her return she will make sure to get her assignments completed. Responsibility is just one of the characters that makes her a great student here at Countryside.



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**Student Name:** Celeste Freitas  
**School:** Cypress Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Annaliese Braun

Occasionally you get one of those students who seems too good to be true. Celeste is one of those students! She (naturally) shows ALL the pillars of character, but she SHINES when it comes to caring. She goes above and beyond to make her fellow classmates feel loved and accepted. She is kind, thoughtful, patient, and generous. I am so proud of the young lady she already is, and I am very excited to see the woman she will become!

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**Student Name:** Jacob McGill

**School:** Frank Kohn Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Mrs. Heller

Jacob could be selected for all Character Counts pillars. This month he has really stepped up with being helpful to his peers. He constantly volunteers to escort students to the nurse's office or anywhere on campus where there is a need. He generously helps and explains writing assignments and math problems to his classmates. He does these tasks without the expectation of receiving anything in return. He is a great role model for all students. We are very fortunate to have Jacob in our classroom this year.

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**Student Name:** Kenya Romo-Ornelas  
**School:** Garden Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator(s):** Summer Grissom

Kenya was in my Long Term Distance Learning/Independent Study class for her second grade school year. Kenya and her family went above and beyond the call of duty during an incredibly tough school year. Kenya showed up every single week for her one-on-one zoom session. She always had a very positive attitude and had done impeccable work. Kenya and her parents spent my lunch hour zooming with me to understand how to use the Edgenuity program and ensure they could do everything possible to advance her education during uncertain times. Kenya could be trusted to turn her work in before the deadlines and her work was always done to the very best of her ability. Kenya attended additional Zoom sessions for designated ELD times and that teacher often complimented her to me about what a hard worker she was and how engaged she was during their lessons. Long term Distance Learning/Independent Study was incredibly difficult. It required diligence on the part of the student and their family. Kenya truly epitomizes all Six Pillars of Character. She exemplifies a true student of grit, determination, and character. In such an unprecedented, tough year, she was a beacon of hope and a true example of trustworthiness.

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**Student Name:** Meiah Ledesma  
**School:** Heritage Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Fairness

**Nominator(s):** Jennifer Powers

Meiah was my student last year and I am still impressed by her ability to stand up for what is right and play by the rules. We did not come back to in person learning until after character counts nominations last year so I did not get to see her in action. We would play kickball with our class outside and against another fifth grade class and Meiah basically took the role of team coach. She has experience in softball so she was able to tell students when to run to the bases, when to stay, how to spread out in the outfield, and where to aim their kicks. She was encouraging to her teammates, but what shows the pillar of fairness is that she was also encouraging to the other team's players. She would clap for them and tell them when they had a good play. If there were any doubt about a play, she would follow the rules even if it hurt her own team. She made a great team captain for those times when we have to play and I will never forget her for that. She has offered to help me this year with my class and to teach them how to play.

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**Student Name:** Jazlyn Oliveira

**School:** Liberty School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Miranda Evans

Jazlyn is a perfect example of what it means to be a Liberty Lion and an example of character. She is always seeking out ways to help her classmates and students outside of the classroom. When she sees someone without a partner, she is first to make sure they have a group to work with. Whenever she sees someone that is new or does not have a friend to play with, Jazlyn is quick to befriend them and include them in all activities. Jazlyn also wants to help in any way she can in and out of the classroom. When there is trash on campus and she passes by, she picks it up and throws it away even though it is not her own. If there is ever a teacher or student struggling to carry all their belongings, she asks if they need help and offers to carry some items to alleviate their load. She asks nearly everyone she meets about their day and weekend to show that she genuinely cares for those around her. She has a heart to help others and ensure that everyone feels welcomed and included.

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**Student Name:** Dominick Brito  
**School:** Lincoln Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Miss Lopes

Dominick always comes to class prepared and ready to learn. He enjoys learning and is a great role model to not only his classmates, but also his entire school and all the students here at Lincoln Elementary. Dominick knows what is expected inside and outside the classroom. He does what he needs to do and completes all of his work, but loves to help his classmates succeed as well. Dominick truly shows Responsibility in our county, but roars with P.R.I.D.E here at Lincoln!

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**Student Name:** Nicole Thompson  
**School:** Live Oak Middle School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator(s):** Frances Mikasa

Nicole is that rare student who exemplifies all of the pillars, but overall, she is a model citizen. She is a natural leader who leads by example. Her kind and helpful nature makes her well liked by all around her. She seeks to improve what is around her: whether it is helping her peers, getting involved in school to make a positive impact, or sharing her humor to bring smiles to people's faces (under their masks). She models for her peers what a model student citizen should be: with her stellar grades, her involvement in school, and her innate need to want to change things for the better.



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**Student Name:** Kayden Guzman  
**School:** Maple Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Socorro Sandoval

Kayden has grown tremendously since beginning the AcCEL Program with TCOE in August of 2021. In such a short amount of time, Kayden has met his goals and has started communicating more with staff when requesting a preferred object or activity. Kayden's preferred activity is literacy and music. Throughout the day, we can hear Kayden repeating songs that he has learned in order to communicate and self-prompt any needs and reminders. Kayden has started to approach the staff to shake their hand and tell them, "Nice to meet you!" Kayden has demonstrated the pillar of responsibility by working diligently to complete tasks in order to have access to his art supplies as his preferred activity. We are so proud to have Kayden in our classroom and impressed with the way that he has grown and demonstrated the pillar of responsibility since joining our class. Good job, Kayden!

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**Student Name:** Christian Martinez  
**School:** Mission Oak High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Kim Dueck, Oddie Lambert,  
Griselda Bourezfranco, Alejandra Sanchez,  
Doug Jones, Zilda Hilliard

Christian is an excellent student who excels in all areas but especially responsibility. He has attended all rehearsals, performances and fundraisers, is always prepared, and is always on time. Christian is a bright, hardworking, dedicated, and attentive student. He is a senior who is always asking questions about college classes, applications, scholarships, financial aid, grades, homework, etc. This young man is not afraid to ask questions. He wants to make sure he is doing it correctly and not just guessing. In addition, when I give Christian any document that needs to be filled out he does it in a timely manner including checking his email and responding to my questions.

Christian collected donations to take out to the Three Rivers Firefighters in September. I have witnessed him picking up trash after lunch on his way to class. He is a very polite and courteous student and always goes above and beyond. He always has a smile for his fellow students and staff. While his academic achievement is indeed noteworthy, I have also been impressed by this student's work ethic and drive.

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**Student Name:** Jameson Hulsey  
**School:** Mission Valley Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Mark Levy

Jameson Hulsey could be nominated for almost any pillar. He is a caring student who is always looking to help others and his teacher. He is respectful at all times, and he does what is right without being asked. He is trustworthy and fair when participating in games, admitting when he is out or made an error. He does not blame others when the team struggles, but instead encourages them to keep trying. Most of all, he is extremely responsible. Jameson always takes ownership of his learning, asking questions, and clarifies things that are unclear to him. If he is unsure whether an assignment is due, he will do it anyway. He never offers excuses for mistakes, but instead asks if he can redo it or fix it, and at times, he does it without asking because he wants to do it correctly for himself. For our class, we ask for personal best, and Jameson always gives his best effort. He is a student you can trust with anything because he takes ownership of his responsibilities. He is a great servant leader. It is a pleasure to be his teacher this year.

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**Student Name:** April Huizar  
**School:** Oak Valley Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Fairness

**Nominator(s):** Nancy Garcia

April is a fair student. I have seen her out at recess and she does a great job incorporating everyone in the group. She has a kind heart. I have given my class tasks to do in partners and I have seen how she sticks to it and makes sure the task is being completed fairly and responsibly. I am very proud of April.

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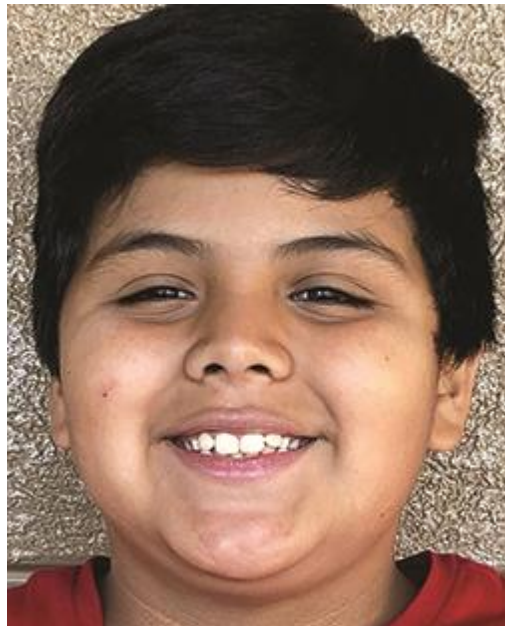
**Student Name:** Joshua Fraley  
**School:** Palo Verde Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Phil Anderson

Joshua Fraley exemplifies all of the Character Counts Pillars; however, I have been most impressed by his helpful caring nature. Last year, junior high students were the last group to come to campus. Learning online was challenging, and there were students who struggled to keep up with their academics. Joshua willingly volunteered to help a student who needed support in math, and Joshua continued to assist the student when students came back on campus. Instead of using class time to complete his own assignments, he helped the student understand and complete his math assignments. Joshua has continued that same kind of selflessness this year. He can always be counted on to help others, assist staff, reach out to new students, and treat all children with respect. When Joshua participates in games or sports at recess, he makes sure that other students get a chance to be part of the game. He is an exemplary student and leader, and I am very pleased to nominate him for the pillar of Caring.

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**Student Name:** Damian Felix  
**School:** Pleasant Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Chandler Pitts

Damian is a model student who demonstrates responsibility each day. He completes his work quickly and quietly, maintains organized notes, and contributes to class conversations regularly. Damian works well with other students and puts forth his best effort to help his classmates be responsible students as well. Responsibility is not only evident in Damian, but he is consistent in maintaining his positive role as a student. He puts forth the effort in his classwork and follows expectations in and out of the classroom. I am very proud of the dedication Damian has modeled thus far and I am eager for him to continue to grow.

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**Student Name:** Michael Rose  
**School:** Roosevelt Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator(s):** Rebecca Mexicano

Michael personifies this trait very well. He knows how to treat others with respect and kindness. Recently we were playing a game and some of the students were a bit timid about going for the ball. Michael is very athletic and was able to get the ball many times. Instead of always keeping it for himself to toss, he would hand it over to other students who he knew had not had a turn. He did this without any prompting from me. This clearly showed me he knows how to include others and treats them respectfully.



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**Student Name:** Delbert Nickels  
**School:** Sierra Vista Charter High School  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Veronica Covert

Delbert Nickels is a junior on our campus. He is super positive and friendly! He is talkative to everyone. Delbert often comes in and just asks how our day is going? This young man is a very hard worker on and off campus. He works at McDonalds and does a great job at balancing work and school. Delbert gives off such a positive energy on our campus! He is a joy to be around!!

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**Student Name:** Chloe Collins  
**School:** Sundale Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Terri Rufert

Chloe Collins is a middle school student who has demonstrated responsibility beyond her years. She has had to deal with a challenging medical issue in her life this year, yet she meets her responsibilities to keep herself healthy and at school. Chloe does this with a positive attitude and determination to not let her stop her from living a full active life. She has been an inspiration to all of us. I could nominate her for every pillar, but am very honored and proud to nominate her for the pillar of responsibility.

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**Student Name:** Bryan Stephens  
**School:** Tulare Tech Prep High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Liz Rocha, Rachel Sausedo

Bryan is one of the most caring students on our campus. He is so sweet and is always willing to help others. One thing he does is go up to our new students and make them feel welcome. He has become a good and patient friend to one of our new students that was having a hard time on our campus. It would be nice to have other students be just like Bryan. I am so proud of this student and feel like he is an important part of our school.

Bryan is such a great role model on campus. He treats staff and students with Respect every day since I've known him. He never lets other's behavior influence him. He comes to school and does what he is supposed to do without any distractions. He's such a pleasure to have as a student and he makes our job that much easier and pleasant.

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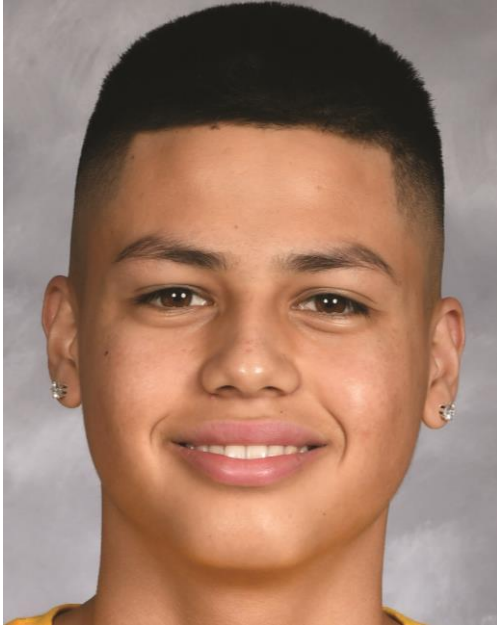
**Student Name:** Madeline Lew  
**School:** Tulare Union High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Fairness

**Nominator(s):** Ivan Arce

Maddie is a great student and athlete. She goes above and beyond to make sure she is doing her fair share and more! I have coached her for 3 years and she always exceeded expectations with her hard work. There was a practice when Maddie was exhausted and tired. I asked her to sit a swim set out so she could rest and catch her breath, she said "Coach I need to work hard, if the rest of the team is swimming I need to do it as well". That is the kind of person Maddie is! She is the hardest working student athlete I have ever met.

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



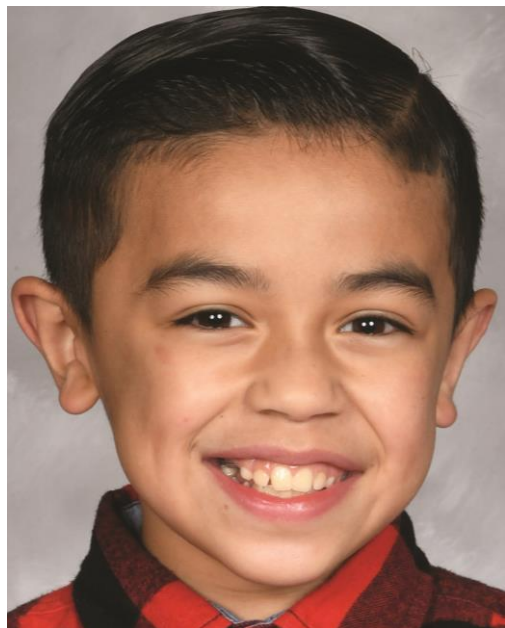
**Student Name:** Timothy Robello  
**School:** Tulare Western High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator(s):** Stevie Lopez

I just inherited Tim this year from his previous AVID teacher that moved schools. Even though I have only known him for a month, he has stood out in the AVID class with his work ethic. Today, Tim found a pair of air pods out on the tables at break and immediately brought them to me to turn them into lost and found. Now, at the high school level, situations like this are extremely rare, but it filled my teacher heart knowing that this young man immediately did the right thing. I am very proud of this AVID student and thankful I get to be his teacher this year, as this young man has an extremely bright future.

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**Student Name:** Iyan Campos  
**School:** Waukena Joint Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator(s):** Cecilia Moreno

This student has demonstrated his caring nature since we began the school year but there is one particular situation, which brought tears to my eyes. As students were preparing to play soccer a few students asked if they could go get a drink of water and while we were waiting for those students to come back I asked the remaining students to play duck duck goose. In our class, we have a student with TBI disability, but even though this is the case, students still include him in our activities. Iyan touched the students head and since the student has balancing issues while walking Iyan walked slowly and pretended he was running and he allowed the student to tag him. The other student was immensely happy that he tagged Iyan. I loved how Iyan showed so much care for his peer.

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**Student Name:** Christian Frea  
**School:** Wilson Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator(s):** Barbara Goodsby

Christian has an amazing attitude towards school and his friends. He has proven repeatedly to tell the truth even when it might be hard. He shows honor to others by helping them when they are in need. Great job Christian!