



Liberty Elementary School eighth-grade student Joshua Villarreal goes out of his way to ensure everyone around him, students and teachers alike, is treated fairly. LAUREN JENNINGS/VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

FAIRNESS

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Liberty Elementary School eighth-grade student Joshua Villarreal is a little shy when you first meet him, but after a few minutes, Joshua's colors truly begin to shine. Those around him describe Joshua as a person that goes above and beyond to ensure everyone around him — students and teachers alike — is treated fairly.

"Joshua is a unique individual that treats everybody with fairness," Liberty Elementary School teacher Robert Aldaco said. "No matter who he's around, he treats everyone equally with no bias."

As Joshua's homeroom teacher, and as the individual who nominated Joshua, Aldaco has had countless opportunities to see how he interacts with others.

Joshua described how much he enjoys his homeroom and explained how Aldaco often helps him with his work for the day.

"If he is first in line, he is always willing to let others

go ahead of him with a smile on his face," Aldaco said. "He never complains when things do not go his way, and is never one to brag, or rub it into his friends, if he wins."

Administrators as well as some of Joshua's former teachers at Liberty Elementary School also described Joshua as someone who is responsible and trusting.

Two school secretaries, who knew Joshua by name, were unsurprised to learn about his pillar nomination given his consistent behavior in school.

"We have come to the conclusion that he has never taken advantage of others, blamed others for anything, and always listens to his peers and teachers with an open mind," Aldaco said. "Joshua is just a very friendly person to everyone he comes in contact with."

Lauren Jennings covers education and news for the Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register. Follow her on Twitter @lolojennings. Get alerts and keep up on all things Tulare County for as little as \$1 a month. Subscribe today.