

**Tulare County Office of
Education
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2022
Visalia Times Delta 2-Page Ad**



Student Name: Romeo Avila
School: Ducor Union Elementary
School, Ducor

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Lupita Flores

Statement:

This student is a constant leader in the classroom, as well as on the field. Romeo is constantly making sure that his class is getting their work done. He sets the tone and is making sure everyone is being treated correctly. Romeo is a student that we can depend on. He loves to help. He loves to be involved in making our school fun and engaging. He leads his peers in making sure character counts in the classroom and on the field. Romeo is a student that has great discipline and integrity when he is at school. He makes sure he completes the task, and he does it with a great attitude. On the field he leads his team and encourages them to do their best. When asked what it means to be responsible? Romeo stated, "helping others and making sure things get done".

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Student Name: Galilea Garcia

School: Exeter Union High School,
Exeter

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Margie Reed

Statement:

Galilea stepped into action when one of our staff members had a medical emergency. She was able to assess the situation, call 9-11, send kids to get help and stayed with the staff member until help arrived. She was very calm, caring and was able to keep her wits about her in an emergency. We are super proud of her.

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Student Name: Trisha Terry

School: Kaweah Continuation High School, Exeter

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Darin Pace

Statement:

During COVID, our student leadership program lost steam and became non-existent. At Kaweah Continuation High School, school culture means everything. Trisha was not part of leadership but saw a need and responded. She is an inclusion specialist who only wants to “see people happy”. So, Trisha, single-handedly, revived student leadership by surveying students and staff, creating and scheduling events, promoting activities, forming partnerships in the community, soliciting funding, and re-energizing our student body. She has spent countless hours being the change-agent for student and staff involvement. We have events already scheduled for the rest of the school year. Driven by Trisha's desire to see all students involved, she has been the catalyst to a flourishing re-engagement program.

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Student Name: Jonathan Andrade
Hernandez

School: Lincoln Elementary School, Exeter

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Austin McKinzie

Statement:

I'm nominating Jonathan for the Pillar of Responsibility due to the consistency in character that he exhibits at school. I had Jonathan in third grade, observed him down the hall in 4th grade and now as a fifth grader he has only grown in his maturity and responsibility as a peer and a student. Jonathan is consistent in attending to the tasks and activities at hand in the classroom. The way that he engages with his peers and encourages them in all content areas, does not only support his peers but also his teacher, as he is someone who can always be relied upon. In transitions to P.E. or the cafeteria or upon arrival and dismissal, Jonathan walks through the hallways of Lincoln Elementary responsibility and care while also maintaining social interactions and building relationships with his peers. In my time with Jonathan as his 3rd grade teacher, on Zoom, I got to see how he carried himself at home and the way he maintained relationships with his siblings and was attentive to all assignments, regardless of the complications and frustrations with digital learning. I'm really proud of Jonathan. I know he will continue to grow as a responsible student and into a responsible citizen in our community.

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Estudiante: Jonathan Andrade Hernandez
Escuela: Lincoln Elementary School, Exeter

Pilar: Responsabilidad

Nominador: Austin McKinzie

Statement:

Estoy nominando a Jonathan para el pilar de RESPONSABILIDAD debido a la consistencia en el carácter que exhibe en la escuela. Tuve a Jonathan en 3er grado, lo observé por el pasillo en 4to grado y ahora estoy entrando a su salón para una intervención matemática como un estudiante de quinto grado y ha crecido en su madurez y responsabilidad como compañero y estudiante. Jonathan es constante en la atención a las tareas y actividades que se realizan en el aula. La forma en que interactúa con sus compañeros y los alienta en todas las áreas de contenido no solo apoya a sus compañeros sino también a su maestro, ya que es alguien en quien siempre se puede confiar. En transiciones a P.E. o la cafetería o al llegar y al salir, Jonathan camina por los pasillos de la Escuela Primaria Lincoln con el ejemplo de responsabilidad y cuidado mientras mantiene interacciones sociales y construye relaciones con sus compañeros. En mi tiempo con Jonathan como su maestro de tercer grado, en Zoom, he visto cómo se comportaba en casa y la forma en que mantenía relaciones con sus hermanos y estaba atento a todas las tareas, independientemente de las complicaciones y frustraciones con el aprendizaje digital. Estoy orgulloso de Jonathan y sé que seguirá creciendo como estudiante responsable y como ciudadano responsable en nuestra comunidad.

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Student Name: Emiliano Macias

School: Rocky Hill Elementary School,
Exeter

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Kathy Logan

Statement:

Emiliano is simply an all around amazing student. He is a very quiet and respectful student who listens, works hard, shows respect to all, and takes good care of our classroom and supplies. And he does all of this with a smile. I really look forward to starting each day at school knowing that Emiliano is part of our second grade family.

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Student Name: Kevin Ramirez
School: Farmersville High School,
Farmersville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Lucinda Filpi

Statement:

Kevin is always a kind and respectful person by nature, so his act of kindness towards a student who has special needs comes as no surprise to me. During the first few days of school, I allowed students to sit with whomever they wanted to sit at the tables. I became concerned because I noticed that my student was sitting at a table all alone. I was about to quietly request some students to join him at the table, but before I could, there was Kevin, sitting with the student, without being prompted. I have also witnessed Kevin pushing this same wheelchair-bound student to class. I was touched by his spontaneous act of kindness, that came from the heart. I'm not surprised at all by his thoughtful actions.

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Student Name: Guadalupe Jacuinde
School: Freedom Elementary School,
Farmersville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Melinda Canning

Statement:

Guadalupe is a born leader. Many students look to her for help when they are struggling with a task. She is always happy to help when I ask for her assistance. She has assisted me with technology several times this year. She wrote an amazing speech and then recorded her speech for ASB. She was very professional.

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Student Name: John Paul Sanchez
School: George L. Snowden School,
Farmersville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Lupe Ortega

Statement:

I am nominating John Paul Sanchez for the Pillar of Caring. He is a very kind student who helps anyone who needs it. If someone is having a hard time with their computer, there he is helping. If someone is having a hard time looking for their material, he is there to assist. If someone is missing their pencil or eraser, he will lend them his. John Paul is helpful, kind and generous.

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Student Name: Ariel Torres

School: J.E.Hester School, Farmersville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Kristy Setser

Statement:

I would like to nominate Ariel Torres for exemplifying the Pillar of Responsibility. Ariel is always on time for school and ready to learn. She demonstrates control of her emotions at all times and is eager to be taught new things. Her desk is always clean and organized and she is always listening and prepared for the learning at hand. I was taken by surprise when Ariel's mom reached out and messaged me for help regarding anxiety and some anger problems. It made me really take another look at Ariel and how she was behaving in class. I have to say I noticed only self-control and preparedness. I'm certain that COVID has played a large role in our children feeling scared and anxious, but I am extremely proud of how Ariel has taken ownership of herself and her actions. Our school is focusing on the Pillar of Responsibility this month. I have mentioned numerous times that I am looking for one student to receive this award at our upcoming assembly. Each time I ask, "Who is demonstrating the Pillar of Responsibility?" Automatically my class says, "Ariel". That is why I am so confident in nominating her for this award!

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Student Name: Aubrey Espinoza

School: Jefferson Elementary School,
Lindsay

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Blanca Lopez

Statement:

Aubrey is such a sweet person with a great personality. She goes out of her way to play with her cousins. Aubrey is also good about sharing her toys and snacks with her cousins.

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Student Name: Cintya Lopez

School: J.J.Cairns Continuation High School, Lindsay

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Katelaine Rojas

Statement:

If there was ever an award for a learner who works diligently, face-paced, and always open to feedback; Cintya would be top of the list. Cintya has always been a student that is on the quieter side, but it does not stop her from showing her strong personality. Through her facial expressions and creativity, her personality shines! On a daily basis, Cintya is always on task and doing what she is supposed to do. There are very rare occasions that Cintaya is distracted or not working on an assignment in class. Cintya always produces quality work and has shown her exceptional writing skills. She intentionally chooses assignments that allow her to write in order to challenge herself; a characteristic of her personality that I admire.

As her advisor, I have the privilege of knowing her in a setting that is not strictly academic. She is just as quiet, but has her own way of contributing to class discussions and projects. Cintya also embraces stepping out of her comfort zone during our advisory by trying new forms of expression. Again, she does it without hesitation and has a growth mindset about how she can strengthen her weaknesses. This student is a model to those around her and her actions show why she deserves this award.

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Student Name: Penelope Sonksen
School: Lincoln Elementary School,
Lindsay

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Julie Denni

Statement:

Penelope is a shining example of a trustworthy friend. She is going to keep it real, tell the truth and be a solid rock of honesty, which is what I love about her. I'm proud of the way she leads in our class, and anyone who calls her a friend will have all their secrets kept under lock and key with Penelope!!

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Student Name: Violette Lane

School: Loma Vista Charter School,
Lindsay

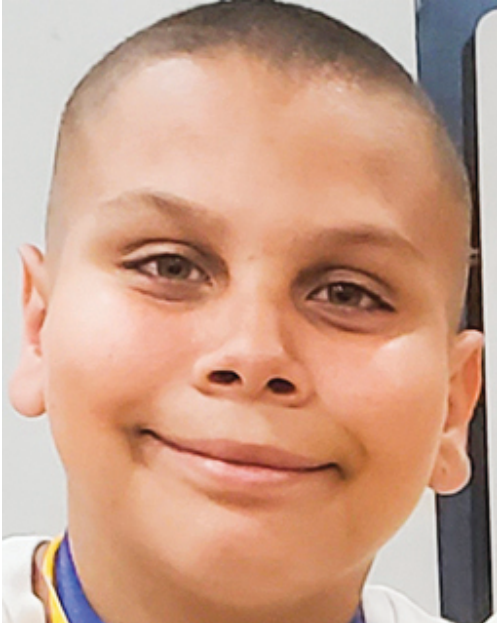
Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Amalia Lopez

Statement:

Violette Lane is a learner who exemplifies responsibility. Despite medical needs that have kept her from attending school in person, she has been incredibly responsible with her schoolwork on independent study and, as a senior, is on pace to graduate by November of this year. She holds herself to a very high standard and has placed a high value on her education and the amount of responsibility it takes to successfully complete it. In addition, Violette volunteers in home health care and supports elderly citizens with cleaning, cooking, and physical therapy. She has a heart of service and recognizes that caring for others is a civic responsibility. Violette is a young woman who models responsibility, integrity, and accountability in all she does.

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Student Name: Jeremiah Francis

School: Reagan Elementary School,
Lindsay

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Erik Walker

Statement:

Jeremiah Francis is a learner that takes his academics very seriously. He was always on-task and ready to learn. He never missed a single assignment all year and did very well on his tests and quizzes throughout the year. He has an inner desire to always try his best and to make sure he finishes all of his tasks both big and small. He also reminded his groups all year to finish their work as well. Jeremiah's hard work and determination paid off for him last May when we did our SBAC testing. He scored above standard in both ELA and Math. I absolutely loved his desire to learn and how he went about his business.

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Student Name: Daniel Ortiz

School: Roosevelt Elementary
School, Lindsay

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Sarah Diaz

Statement:

Daniel always wants to answer questions, but he patiently waits his turn and then when it's his turn, he follows the SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for sharing and waits until he is called upon.

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Student Name: Jon Carlos Ruiz

School: Pleasant View Elementary School,
Poplar

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Tashima Irving

Statement:

Trustworthiness can be hard to find. A student who is proactively honest, a keeper of promises, and tells the truth even when it can have a negative effect on them is a true gem to find. Well, I am so glad to announce here at Pleasant View Elementary we have a student by the name of Jon Carlos Ruiz who fits this description perfectly. In our 3rd grade class, we can always trust that he is completing his goals and responsibilities. There was a situation where we were having movie day and he hadn't finished his goals. Instead of jumping right into the excitement of Encanto and snacks, he walked over to me and asked if it was ok to still watch the movie even though he hadn't finished his goals. I just smiled, he was the only student that felt the need to share where he stood with his goals. He understood the importance of finishing his work before doing extra activities. Of course, I told him not to worry about it and he smiled, ran, and joined the rest of the class for the movie. It's moments like these that let me know he intrinsically is an honest and trustworthy person worthy of being acknowledged.

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Student Name: Hannah Jones

School: Alta Vista School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Vanessa Reilly

Statement:

Hannah Jones' picture should be by the word responsibility in the dictionary. Since she was in the 3rd grade, she has delivered breakfast wagons to all of the teachers without them asking.

Five years later, and she never misses a beat. She has been involved in Student Council since her 6th grade year. Even during Covid, she would help me get information out to students via zoom and emails. She seems to be able to read my mind as the ASB Advisor. She is a born leader. Her heart might be too big for her chest. In all she does, leading and following, she is inclusive and is always there to help people find their place in the group. Her sense of duty is like none that I have seen in a very long time.

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Student Name: Jocelyn Melo Sanchez
School: Bartlett Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Shelby Lozano

Statement:

Jocelyn is a great helper in the classroom and her school community. She is the first one to offer help when needed and will do what she can to help others. She also helps out her school community by being a leader of a campus clean-up club. Jocelyn is also a member of the volleyball team at Bartlett and displays great citizenship with her teammates and opponents.

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Student Name: Elijah Mora

School: Belleview Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Barbara Loehner

Statement:

Elijah demonstrates the pillar of citizenship at Belleview Elementary School. He is well mannered, remembering to say, "please" and "thank you." Elijah participates in class. During group work he makes sure everyone gets along and contributes to the project. Elijah is a great citizen to have in our class!

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Student Name: Nevarro Suarez

School: Burton Elementary School
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Leslee Taylor

Statement:

Well, this young man is a fine citizen, in the classroom, and at home too. He always does his share, and in the most positive of ways! He works well with others, whether in partners or groups, and he works hard to help our room run smoothly. He is willing to help in any way, whether with technology or with picking up paper off the floor. In all ways, he helps our class to keep on a learning track and to keep up an organized environment. He is a person who pitches in whenever he sees an opportunity, and he does this in such an unassuming manner. As his teacher his leadership has been noticed and much appreciated!

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Student Name: Marcelina Cabatu
School: Burton Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Fernando Gonzalez

Statement:

I am very pleased to nominate Marcelina Cabatu for the Pillar of Responsibility. As a part of our school rules, Marcelina was not only nominated by the student body of Burton Middle School, but she was overwhelmingly recommended by her teachers to take one of the highest positions in our ASB class. Marcelina is the true definition of a student-athlete as she continues to excel in her academics and performance at a high level in every sport she participates in, which has made her a role model for students who are looking to be involved in extracurricular activities.

Furthermore, she is well respected by her peers and has developed great relationships with her current teachers. We are extremely lucky to have her at Burton Middle School.

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Student Name: Moises Alcantar
School: Butterfield Charter School,
Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Irma Guajardo

Statement:

It is my pleasure to nominate Moises for the Pillar of Responsibility. Moises is in Kindergarten. He is doing his work through Independent Study. To just meet him you would think that he was older than his age. His family has prepared him so very well that he has been accelerated and given Beyond Level Assignments for his work. Moises comes into our weekly meetings so excited to share everything he has learned and finished for me. It is such a pleasure to see him and to add more work to my "Wall of Fame." His family has given him such a great start to help him to have a successful scholastic career. I am grateful for the opportunity to be Moises's first teacher.

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Student Name: Joanna Molina Ambriz

School: Granite Hills High School,
Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Cody Diliberto

Statement:

Joanna Molina consistently goes above and beyond in her work outside of classes. She is a straight A student, and yet any time a volunteer is needed for leading tours for business partners, speaking to incoming students, interning at a two week summer camp, or simply helping a teacher with an errand, she is the first to raise her hand. Not only can she be counted on to volunteer, but she completes her tasks with enthusiasm, a smile, and to the exact specifications needed. Last year, our pathway needed students to speak to incoming 8th graders about their experience so far in the pathway, and to motivate kids to join us. Even though she was only a 9th grader, Joanna volunteered for the job, usually fulfilled by 11th and 12th graders, and was amongst the best speakers at the presentation. She rehearsed her speech tirelessly, sought feedback from adults, and carried herself with a maturity well-beyond her years. Overall, Joanna merits recognition as one who not only does what she is supposed to do, but goes beyond what is expected every time.

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Student Name: Ellan Baeza

School: Hope School, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Cheyenne Ramirez

Statement:

Ellan Baeza is a student worthy of recognition for her responsibility both as a student as well as in general. In school, as student body president, Ellan has taken on a lot of responsibility. She continually sets a good example for her peers and the lower grade students look up to her. She always shows up to school on time, ready to learn. She does all of her work on time and does it well. During breaks and recesses Ellan is always doing the right thing, on her best behavior, and sets a great example for her peers. As a student, a student council member, and outside of school with her horses and chores at home, Ellan is always doing what she is supposed to. And because so many eyes are on her all the time, she sets an example and encourages others to do the same. For this reason I believe that Ellan Baeza deserves recognition for her being responsible at all times.

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Student Name: Nataly Prieto

School: John J. Doyle Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Susana Arteaga

Statement:

Nataly Prieto displays honesty and trustworthiness in dealings with others. She treats school property and the belongings of others with care and respect. Nataly never makes excuses for her actions. She fully admits to not completing the assignment, but will faithfully complete it at her own pace. Nataly can always be counted on to step in and help where needed. Nataly has had different classroom jobs in the last two weeks, and during each job assignment she has been thorough and competent. She did not need any reminders.

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Student Name: Madison Pruitt

School: Los Robles Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Christina Dole

Statement:

Madison Pruitt is a respectful Lobo in our class. Some situations can be hard, but no matter what, I can count on her to tell me the truth. It is evident that Madison has strong morals. She always does what is right. For example, Madison demonstrates her ability to be respectful by being respectful to her peers, coming to an adult for help with a situation, and choosing to do what is right and fair by others. I am so happy to have Madison in my class this year!

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Student Name: Alexander Aguilar Beltran
School: Monache High School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Samantha Williams

Statement:

We have several students on our campus with exceptional needs. We have a student who is legally blind, and has been learning his way around campus. Alex is the first one to make sure the student has assistance to and from his classes. Alex has befriended many students on campus, and always cares for their well-being. When someone is absent, he will often text his friends to check in on them. He will go over and beyond to express concerns when something isn't right, and will seek out staff support for others. Alex is the definition of caring.

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Student Name: Sophia Guerrero

School: Monte Vista Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Angie Torres

Statement:

Sophia Guerrero is one of the most thoughtful students on our campus. She is always making sweet notes to the office staff and classroom teacher. In addition, she is kind to her peers and offers to help when needed. We truly appreciate her kindness at Monte Vista.

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Student Name: Lidia Vazquez

School: Oak Grove Elementary School,
Porterville

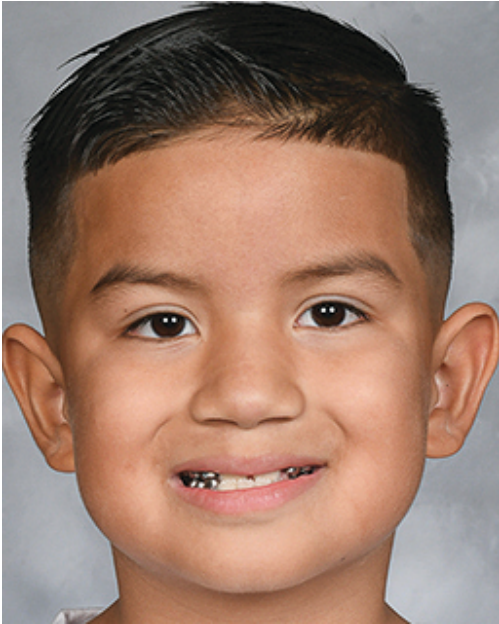
Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Jill Roberts

Statement:

Lidia is an incredible scholar and friend. She is always showing others that she cares about herself and her actions as well as helping others to be respectful. She is often found making bracelets, art pieces and extra above and beyond projects to share with her friends. She has patience that is used in just the right moments. She's a top scholar, striving to be the best person she can. It is very important to her that others are kind and can be counted on to talk to when her friends are not being respectful.

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Student Name: Anthony Mendez

School: Olive Street Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Jill Stokes

Statement:

Anthony is an amazing example of the Character Pillar of Trustworthiness. He has an excitement about learning that is contagious. He always tries his best and is willing to help others. He often does more than is asked for or expected. He is a kind person and a friend to everyone. He is a very important part of our class. Congratulations, Anthony!

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Student Name: Elias Dominquez
School: Pioneer Middle School, Porterville

Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Bertha Cortez

Statement:

Elias is a very trustworthy student, he is always 100% honest regardless of the situation. He encourages others to always be honest and tell the truth. He goes above and beyond to show that he can be trusted inside and outside of the classroom. Elias does what is right regardless of who is watching.

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Student Name: Evelyn Bucio

School: Pleasant View West School,
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Tashima Irving

Statement:

I can always count on this young lady to volunteer and lead by example in our SQUAD club. Evelyn Bucio is an 8th grader who has a heart of gold and is willing to serve others before herself. She has been in SQUAD for a couple of years, but this year is different. She lights up the room with joy and excitement every time we meet. She is a role model to the younger SQUAD students and is always ready to help them understand their roles and responsibilities in SQUAD. During our first SQUAD community project, "Thank an Agriculture Worker" Evelyn was energetic and prepared to get out in the hot sun and make her way through the grapes vines to greet every worker she came across with a smile, words of gratitude, an ice-cold Gatorade and a thank you card. She walked up to me during the field trip and said, "The workers are so happy when we give them a Gatorade and thank you card. This is hard work but it is fun". She understands the importance of being kind to others and is quite deserving of a citizenship highlight for all her selfless efforts in her school and community.

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Student Name: Brenna Galloway

School: Porterville High School,
Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Magdalena Echeveste

Statement:

Brenna Galloway truly demonstrates all the character pillars and she exemplifies the pillar of Caring. Last year, Brenna was very involved in all school activities, sports, clubs, community service, and pathway events. She participated in all these activities with a positive attitude and with grace while caring for her mother. As school began, Brenna demonstrated a great enthusiasm to support this year's Relay for Life and has devoted herself to promote and bring awareness to cancer survivors and their caregivers. Brenna's true devotion and courage is an inspiration to many adults like myself. As Brenna's former instructor for her health academy class and as a nurse myself, I can strongly say that Brenna shows true empathy and compassion to others. I know for a fact that Brenna will be an exceptional healthcare provider in her near future. It is an honor and privilege for me to nominate Brenna Galloway for the Pillar of Caring.

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Student Name: Alicia Nolan

School: Porterville Military Academy,
Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: SFC Villa

Statement:

C/2LT Nolan serves as the S5 regimental staff and is involved in every aspect of battle staff planning. As S5- Media/Advertising/Recruiting (She plans and conducts marketing (i.e. Flyers/Posters/Handouts). She also plans and conducts cadet social activities related to recruiting and communications. She has proven to be honest and trustworthy in all she does. C/2LT Nolan has displayed the highest level of integrity and loyalty to her duties at Porterville Military Academy.

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Student Name: Rozlynn Angco

School: Roche Avenue Elementary
School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Cassie Rapp

Statement:

Rozlynn is always helpful inside and outside the classroom. She is quick to volunteer to help her classmates and her teacher on a regular basis. Recently, my students went to SCICON. Unfortunately I was unable to go this year and was worried about a student in particular whose parents had reported to me that she struggled with social anxiety and homesickness. This student is also new to our school this year. I was worried about how this student would do during her week away from home. It was reported to me by our Principal, that while she was visiting the students, Rozlynn was by this student's side as her friend and cheerleader. Rozlynn helped her keep a positive attitude during the week. The Principal reported to me that Rozlynn spoke to the student, who was crying, and said to her in a positive and encouraging manner, that she had promised she would not cry more than a certain number of times that day. Rozlynn proved that she was kind and generous in a big way, as this new student could have had a very different experience at SCICON if Rozlynn had not been by her side to help her keep a positive attitude and remain strong through a difficult experience.

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Student Name: David Gallo

School: Santa Fe Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Carrie Teves

Statement:

David is such a good citizen. He is always willing to help inside and outside the classroom. No task is too big or small for David. He is always asking me if he can help me. I really appreciate his willingness to keep our classroom happy and clean.

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Student Name: Cristian Valenzuela
School: St. Anne's School, Porterville

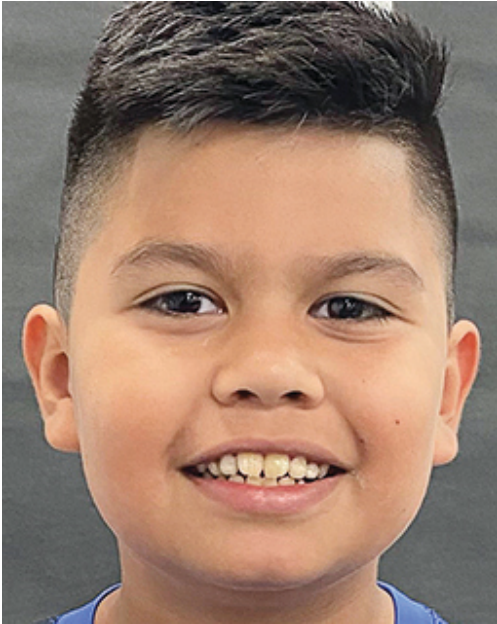
Pillar: Trustworthiness

Nominator: Tarah High

Statement:

Cristian has shown to be a very trustworthy student. There was recently an issue at our school in which a student posted something on Tik Tok as an anonymous user and Cristian noticed that the post referencing other students reflected poorly on Saint Anne's and was not a good representation of our Student Learning Objectives, such as being an Active Christian, Diligent Learner, Self Evaluator and Confident Individual. He did not mention any names and had no intention to get anyone in trouble, but he reached out to a trusting adult to let them know of the issue so that it could be handled. The character trait of trustworthiness is an especially difficult trait to have in middle school because of peer pressure and social conformity, but it is evident that Cristian holds himself to a high caliber and even his friends would agree that Cristian is able to speak honestly despite the challenges that sometimes accompany the integrity of coming forward and speaking the truth.

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Student Name: Alonso Diaz

School: Summit Charter Academy
Mathew Campus, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Brenda Ruiz

Statement:

It is with great pleasure that I type this nomination for Alonso Diaz. Alonso began the school year like no other year prior. He has the motivation, encouragement and desire to reach his academic goals. Alonso has currently reached over 20% of his reading goal. This is a student who has struggled in the past with his reading, and for me as his teacher to see him motivated, is the best feeling ever. As a teacher, there is nothing better than to see your students motivated to learn and reach their own goals. I am extremely proud of him and his decision to keep up with his learning and homework responsibilities. It is for these reasons that I believe Alonso should be recognized to receive the Character Counts Award for Responsibility.

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Student Name: Isaac Gallardo

School: Summit Charter Collegiate
Academy, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Erin Alafa

Statement:

Isaac is such a joy to have in class. He comes into class everyday with a smile and a joke ready to tell me. He helps hold the door open at the beginning of class, and greets students as they enter the classroom. Isaac is always willing to lend a hand and help in the classroom. He is involved in Cross Country where he is a great teammate. Isaac is a very kind and generous young man, and it is my pleasure to recommend him for this award.

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Student Name: Joseph Aguayo

School: Summit Charter Intermediate Academy, Porterville

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Samuel Novinger

Statement:

Joseph is a great student. He is always fully applying himself in my classroom. He is dedicated to doing the weather announcement for video production. He takes the time to edit and put together his weather forecast for each Friday. He is working on an animation for the Burton Film Festival. He always cares about growing and doing more. He never gives up. Even last year when he didn't win he was looking forward to attempting to try again. I find he cares about helping other students in the classroom to do better. He is always encouraging others to be better. He is involved in cross country and always trying to motivate his teammates. He continues to surprise me with his dedication to doing his best and caring about helping others along the way.

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Student Name: Dianara Pulido

School: Vandalia Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Mary Arias

Statement:

Miss Dianara is consistently displaying good citizenship by assisting other students and staff. She is kind, respectful and very helpful when interacting with her peers and staff. Thank you Miss Dianara for always being such an amazing role model scholar!

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Student Name: Daniel Pena Avila

School: West Putnam Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Mrs. Adegbenro

Statement:

Daniel exhibits all Six Pillars of Character. He is a joy to have in class. Daniel takes charge of his group to make sure each of his peers understands the concepts being taught. He is trustworthy. He is honest, truthful, and keeps his word. Daniel is respectful towards his peers, staff, and all adults. He knows that it takes kindness towards others to be treated the same way. Daniel is responsible. Daniel stays focused and on task. He is prepared each day and does what he is supposed to do. Daniel is fair. He knows it takes fairness to have a good game and to ensure that all players are having fun. Daniel is caring. He is helpful, kind, and generous. He is my helper. This brings us to Citizenship. Daniel does what it takes to keep our campus clean and looking good. Our campus is our community, and he helps others to have pride in our school. Daniel stands out among his peers, however, he is still very humble. He has very good qualities about him. He will grow up to be a fine, contributing, adult.

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Student Name: Thalie Munoz Rodriguez

School: Westfield Elementary School,
Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Megan Gonzales

Statement:

Thalie is the perfect example of a caring person. She greets everyone she meets with a smile. Thalie is always willing to help her teacher and classmates with whatever it may be that they need help. I have seen Thalie work in her group to make sure everyone is working together to solve problems. Thalie is always willing to help students get supplies when it is needed, pass out paper, and pick up trash if she sees it. These are just a few examples of the caring person Thalie is. She is willing to help any staff member she sees and always does it with a smile. Thalie is a very kind friend to all her peers as well.

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Student Name: Hazel Cardenas

School: William R. Buckley Elementary
School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Cassandra Williams

Statement:

Hazel has been setting a great example in our class with her kind and helpful acts towards a new student at our school. Although times may not be easy and sometimes frustrating, she still takes the time to make sure he has a friend to play with. She doesn't treat him differently and her compassion towards him has not gone unnoticed. Not only is she a great friend to our new student but to everyone in the class. She is kind to her teacher as well. Hazel is very deserving of this recognition.

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Student Name: Silverio Sanchez
School: Woodville Union School, Porterville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Amanda Renteria

Statement:

Silverio (Adonis) Sanchez is an all around great kid! He is the oldest of many siblings and is incredibly caring to them which runs over into how he acts at school with his peers and the Woodville Staff. He is genuinely kind to others and is ALWAYS willing to lend a hand. Adonis is helpful to anyone that asks or many times, he just sees the need and offers help.

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Student Name: Jaheli Osuna Sanchez
School: Richgrove School, Richgrove

Pillar: Respect

Nominator: Adena Joseph

Statement:

Jaheli is a very respectful student. She always says, "Hello Ms. Joseph" as she enters my classroom daily. She pays attention in class and turns in her assignments on time. Whenever I call on her to read, she knows where we are in the story. She is eager to get her work done thoroughly and with extra effort. I enjoy hearing her thoughts on whatever topic comes up in class, and she has a sense of humor! Jaheli is very respectful towards adults and peers at Richgrove Elementary. She is a model 8th grade student! Good job Jaheli Osuna!

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Student Name: Annie Yorba

School: Springville Union School, Springville

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Brooke Mariboho

Statement:

Annie Yorba is a 7th grader here at Springville School. It is very difficult to choose just one pillar for Annie because she honestly exemplifies every single pillar daily. I am Annie's PE/Writing teacher and volleyball coach, so I have seen Annie in a variety of settings. She is a natural leader and caring motivator in all games and sports. She encourages others, older and younger, with her words and positive attitude. She works hard in class and outside on the playground to be inclusive and boost others confidence. She is a natural athlete and competitive in all sports, but she is humble and never brags or takes credit for the great things she accomplishes. Annie is one of those students who is a pleasure to teach daily and motivates those around her to be better.

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Student Name: John Cemo

School: Harmony Magnet Academy,
Strathmore

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator: Mildred Edsberg

Statement:

John "JD" has been a member and technology officer for our Harmony Magnet Academy Associated Student Body for two years. He has been an incredible help, volunteering to take on projects which have provided our campus superior presentation. He is the first one here to set up and the last to leave with tear down in every ASB event and activity, as well as those needed by administrators and the community. JD is a quiet soul with a huge heart. He is efficient, diligent, organized, and well spoken. He does not call attention to himself but works to provide excellent support, leadership, training, and implementation to the planned activity. What's more, when he says something, he has done the research and the planning to back it up. When JD says he can do something, you can take it to the bank. Sometimes young people like this get overlooked when being recognized for being outstanding, because they often do an outstanding job without calling attention to themselves.

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Student Name: Maya Chapa

School: Strathmore Elementary School,
Strathmore

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Stephen Sobko

Statement:

I have taught and coached Maya Chapa for three weeks now in 4th grade PE. I have taught and coached at multiple different schools throughout my career, Strathmore Elementary/Middle School, Torrance High School and Redondo Union High School. Maya in less than a month is one of the most responsible students I have worked with so quickly. She is already able to lead her classmates in various classroom activities which are new to the students as if she had done them for years. She even gives her classmates tips on how to stretch and exercise correctly. She has the entire grade level organized each day and ready to participate in PE. Her level and sense of responsibility transcends what I believed could be accomplished by an elementary school age student in such a short amount of time. She takes all of her tasks throughout her day seriously and has the respect of all of her peers, teachers and family members. I look forward to having her in my classes for the next five years and I know she will continue to thrive and be responsible throughout her life. I wish everyone could have the opportunity to work with a student like her at least once in their career to feel the enjoyment and surprise I have been fortunate to have over these last few weeks.

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Student Name: Jaden Thomas
School: Strathmore High School,
Strathmore

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: John Lujan and
Renee Ortiz

Statement:

Last year Jaden was ill at the beginning of school for sometime. He fell behind in all of his classes. When he returned to school he still wasn't feeling 100%. Jaden worked through his personal and health issues to complete his work for each of his classes. On a weekly basis Jaden would share his progress with me, how many assignments he completed, how many he still had to complete and what his grade was in each class. It was impressive. He worked at it like it was a game or a sport. He completed all of his work, but he didn't stop there, Jaden ended up being at the top of his class. He also mentors his younger cousins, encouraging them to be responsible and have a positive outlook. As Jaden's confidence grew he took on leadership positions and helped out in clubs and classes. This year he is an officer in FFA and active in other clubs and continues to encourage others, even the staff.

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Student Name: Zachary Avalos

School: Strathmore Middle School, Strathmore

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator: Tasha Boehme

Statement:

Zach has demonstrated discipline and dedication his 8th grade year! He spent his 5th-7th grade years in and out of my intervention classroom due his choices in behavior, work ethic, and attitude. He has always had a big heart, but had a hard time showing it. Something changed this summer because Zach showed up week one of his 8th grade year with goals. He was going to play sports all year, not get sent to my classroom for negative reasons, and graduate! He has made the football team already, and his teachers have only had positive things to say about Zach this year. The only time he comes to my classroom is for help keeping up with his assignments and it is by choice on his part! We are all so proud of him!

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Student Name: Nael Muniguna
School: Sunnyside Union School,
Strathmore

Pillar: Caring

Nominator: Alicia Franco

Statement:

Nael is a caring young man. When a new student arrived at Sunnyside and he didn't understand English, Nael stepped up to translate. Nael instantly took him under his wing and began showing him around the school. In class, we begin with a warm-up, and students with a partner come up with a story based on a picture I show on the screen. Well, Nael instantly took Thiago's idea, and this year he would translate the sentence his buddy came up with. This demonstrated how kind he is towards his friend, which is almost nonexistent for middle school-aged boys. Nael is a rare gem, because he is not afraid to stop and talk to his teachers to chit-chat.