

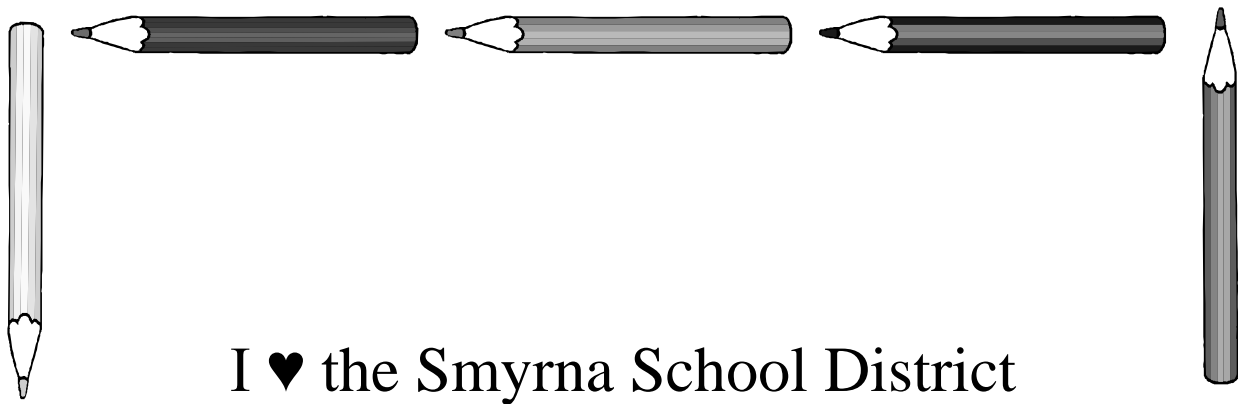


Smyrna School District

Essay Contest

2010

Adult and Student Winners



I ♥ the Smyrna School District

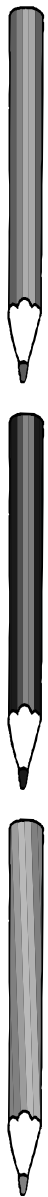
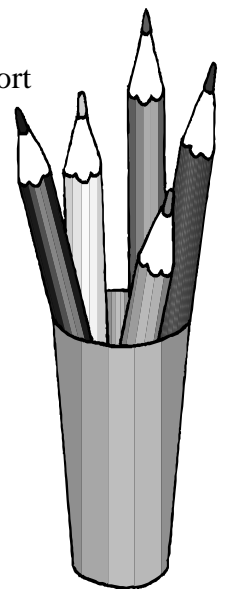
The tenth essay contest to support the five Smyrna School District core values of *Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion* was held during the month of January 2010. There were two categories of winners: adults (18 and over) and students (K through Grade 12). During “I Love the Smyrna School District” day on February 27, 2010, first, second and third place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments.

The 2010 writing contest focused on the value of *Integrity*. Hundreds of touching and heartfelt essays were submitted. This booklet contains the essays of first, second and third place winners at all levels.

I hope this booklet is a source of inspiration for both the readers and the writers.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed their time and effort to enter this contest and share their thoughts.

Debbie Wicks
Superintendent



For the tenth annual “I Love the Smyrna School District” essay contest, students and adults were asked to write about *Integrity*, a core district value. Contest rules and a writing prompt were disseminated to students (via their teachers) and the community in January 2010. The writing prompt was created to mirror the type of prompt students might encounter on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) writing tests given each spring.

June Wicks, district reading coordinator, prepared the prompt and assisted with coordinating the essay contest. Janet Garrett, retired Smyrna High School business teacher, completed the typing and formatting of the publication. Karen Kennedy, Smyrna School District Curriculum Office secretary, assisted with the layout and editing of the publication. Alexander “Sandy” Shalk, Ed.D., conducted the contest and edited the final publication. District teachers encouraged their students to write and helped select essays. Appreciation is extended to all for their time and effort in making this publication possible.

ESSAY CONTEST

Contestants are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic:

Integrity is the quality of being honest, fair and good. People that have integrity are trustworthy.

Write about a person you admire who has the qualities of integrity. Tell in detail why you chose this particular person, what specific qualities this person possesses, and give specific examples of how he/she demonstrates integrity.

ADULT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. Winners and runners-up were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 27, 2010).

STUDENT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners are selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. All winners were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 27, 2010).

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Adult, Gold Award Winner, <i>Frankie J. Bartsch, Jr.</i>	7
Adult, Gold Award Winner, <i>Stephanie Steckel</i>	8

Clayton Elementary School

Kindergarten, First Place Winner, <i>Isabel Wilson</i>	10
Kindergarten, Second Place Winner, <i>Stephilyn Hart</i>	10
Kindergarten, Third Place Winner, <i>Kevin Woodruff</i>	10
Grade 1, First Place Winner, <i>Amaya Ridgeway</i>	10
Grade 1, Second Place Winner, <i>Rachel Youngcourt</i>	10
Grade 1, Third Place Winner, <i>Marie Youngcourt</i>	10
Grade 2, First Place Winner, <i>Jordan Hill</i>	11
Grade 2, Second Place Winner, <i>Kayla Wilson</i>	11
Grade 2, Third Place Winner, <i>Jen Sloven</i>	11
Grade 3, First Place Winner, <i>Caitlin McCutchan</i>	12
Grade 3, Second Place Winner, <i>Aaron Lewis</i>	12
Grade 3, Third Place Winner, <i>Chris Desir</i>	13
Grade 4, First Place Winner, <i>Jessica Bright</i>	13
Grade 4, Second Place Winner, <i>Meghan Yerkes</i>	14
Grade 4, Third Place Winner, <i>Autumn Potter</i>	15

North Smyrna Elementary School

Kindergarten, First Place Winner, <i>Madison Arsenault</i>	17
Kindergarten, Second Place Winner, <i>Bianca Bowland-Michon</i>	17
Kindergarten, Third Place Winner, <i>Owen Withrow</i>	17
Grade 1, First Place Winner, <i>Victoria Jordan</i>	17
Grade 1, Second Place Winner, <i>Shayne Wilson</i>	17
Grade 1, Third Place Winner, <i>Robbie Robinson</i>	18
Grade 2, First Place Winner, <i>Alisiya Stephens</i>	18
Grade 2, Second Place Winner, <i>Bre'yon Colander</i>	18
Grade 2, Third Place Winner, <i>Ava Acton</i>	18
Grade 3, First Place Winner, <i>Emily Marthaler</i>	18
Grade 3, Second Place Winner, <i>Grace Dunning</i>	19
Grade 3, Third Place Winner, <i>Noah Burns</i>	20

Grade 4, First Place Winner, <i>Anilu Paneda</i>	20
Grade 4, Second Place Winner, <i>Ivy Legar</i>	21
Grade 4, Third Place Winner, <i>Erin Smallwood</i>	22

Smyrna Elementary Elementary School

Kindergarten, First Place Winner, <i>Alison Cherriman</i>	24
Kindergarten, Second Place Winner, <i>Dylan Booth</i>	24
Kindergarten, Third Place Winner, <i>Ian Murphy</i>	24
Grade 1, First Place Winner, <i>Kaniya Jones</i>	24
Grade 1, Second Place Winner, <i>Elias Prosser</i>	24
Grade 1, Third Place Winner, <i>Jenna Carroll</i>	25
Grade 2, First Place Winner, <i>Teyonna Tucker</i>	25
Grade 2, Second Place Winner, <i>Kobe Conomon</i>	25
Grade 2, Third Place Winner, <i>Douglas Mancini</i>	26
Grade 3, First Place Winner, <i>Tyler Yeomans</i>	26
Grade 3, Second Place Winner, <i>Leah Gaynor</i>	26
Grade 3, Third Place Winner, <i>Autum Wilson</i>	(essay not available)
Grade 4, First Place Winner, <i>Colin Shalk</i>	27
Grade 4, Second Place Winner, <i>Alec Shalk</i>	27
Grade 4, Third Place Winner, <i>Emmy Brittingham</i>	28

Sunnyside Elementary School

Kindergarten, First Place Winner, <i>Nick Richardson</i>	31
Kindergarten, Second Place Winner, <i>Isabella Reyes</i>	31
Kindergarten, Third Place Winner, <i>Laila Gilliam</i>	31
Grade 1, First Place Winner, <i>Sophia DeMarco</i>	31
Grade 1, Second Place Winner, <i>Erin Finney</i>	31
Grade 1, Third Place Winner, <i>Ryan Cole</i>	32
Grade 2, First Place Winner, <i>Azariah Torain</i>	32
Grade 2, Second Place Winner, <i>Tristan Rybicki</i>	(essay not available)
Grade 2, Third Place Winner, <i>Kaylah Briscoe</i>	32
Grade 3, First Place Winner, <i>Grace Kayati</i>	(essay not available)
Grade 3, Second Place Winner, <i>Shannon Glew</i>	32
Grade 3, Third Place Winner, <i>Madalyn Adams</i>	33
Grade 4, First Place Winner, <i>Madison Keister</i>	34
Grade 4, Second Place Winner, <i>George Class-Peters</i>	35
Grade 4, Third Place Winner, <i>Savannah Poorman</i>	35

JBM Intermediate School

Grade 5, First Place Winner, *Breanna Mullikin*38
Grade 5, Second Place Winner, *Mason Williams*38
Grade 5, Third Place Winner, *Dylan Wilson*39

Grade 6, First Place Winner, *Cory Collins* (essay not available)
Grade 6, Second Place Winner, *Ruby Robles* (essay not available)
Grade 6, Third Place Winner, *William Walker*40

Smyrna Middle School

Grade 7, First Place Winner, *Matthew Comollo*43
Grade 7, Second Place Winner, *Claire Cassel*44
Grade 7, Third Place Winner, *J. Raymond Hennen*45

Grade 8, First Place Winner, *Lauren Gaston*.....46
Grade 8, Second Place Winner, *Alex Stubbolo*47
Grade 8, Third Place Winner, *Brian Furtaw*48

Smyrna High School

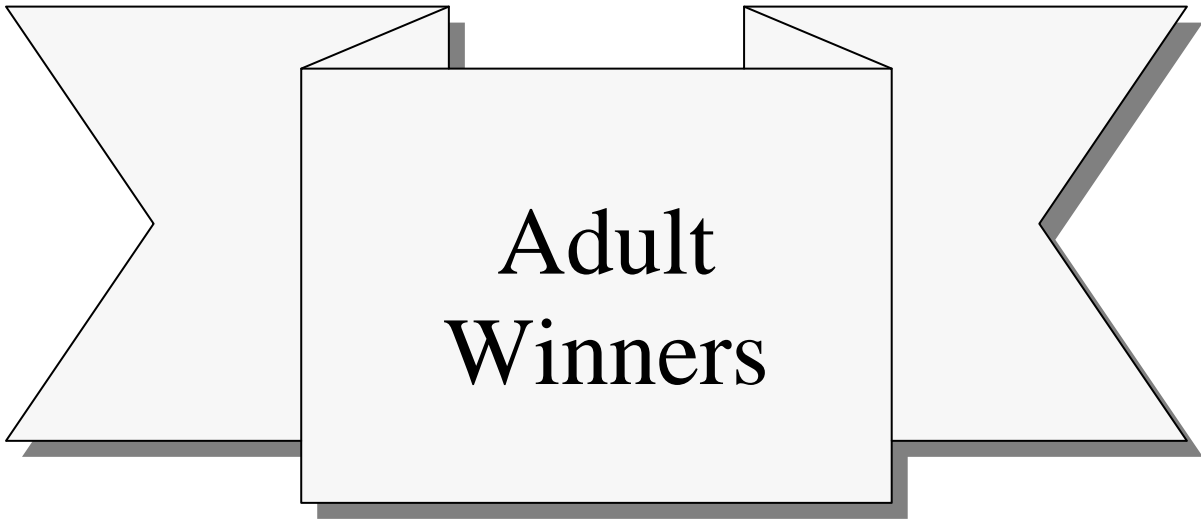
Grade 9, First Place Winner, *Melissa Cole*..... (essay not available)
Grade 9, Second Place Winner, *Jose Lopez*..... (essay not available)
Grade 9, Third Place Winner, *Rachel Senner* (essay not available)

Grade 10, First Place Winner, *Benjamin Wattay* (essay not available)
Grade 10, Second Place Winner, *Raven Banks*..... (essay not available)
Grade 10, Third Place Winner, *Rebecca Pugh* (essay not available)

Grade 11, First Place Winner, *Casse Rhodes* (essay not available)
Grade 11, Second Place Winner, *James Linden*50
Grade 11, Third Place Winner, *Molly Daley* (essay not available)

Grade 12, First Place Winner, *Sarah Rolison* (essay not available)
Grade 12, Second Place Winner, *Matt Storck*.....51
Grade 12, Third Place Winner, *Amy Short*51

Honorable Mention53



Earl Staats was an extraordinary person who radiated love to others with every part of his being. The time I spent with Uncle Earl enabled me to learn so much about him. He would never take an aspirin or Tylenol or any pain medicine because he said that stuff only blocks the pain. He did push-ups and sit-ups, jumped on a trampoline, and walked two miles around the block each morning.

For many years he would go to the Stevenson House in Milford once a week. That was a juvenile home for boys. He would go there to talk to the boys and try to help them and many times he did but for the most part he would just listen to them, many times with his eyes closed. He always thought he could “see” it better with his eyes closed. I think he always thought, “There but for the grace of God, go I.” The boys could really relate to him because of the way he grew up. But more importantly, he never judged them; he just listened to what they had to say and tried to help them.

He also taught the boys the importance of hard work and not being lazy. He would tell the boys things like the Bible says: “He who sows well, reaps well.” He tried to get the boys to start having a positive outlook on life.

Uncle Earl also donated \$100.00 a week to KSI in Milford, which is a work and school place for special needs children. He believed that they were God’s special people.

Uncle Earl’s favorite words were, “joy” and “abundance.” He would say, “How can we find some real joy in today”? He would always say this little phrase that he made up in the days when he had no money. “I pay my bills with ease and I always have extra money in my pocket because I live in abundance.”

Uncle Earl never looked or acted old. Even when he was in his 80’s, he was always a joy to be around. He made you feel good about yourself. When he would finish talking to you on the phone, he would say, “I love you.” My dad said it felt good to hear a grown man say “I love you.”

I think love is the most important thing you can radiate and Uncle Earl did. He was a joy to be around. I am lucky to have known him and to have loved him.

Frankie J. Bartsch, Jr.
Gold Award, Adult

Integrity. Please allow me to define the term and the person I know. Integrity is “a steadfast adherence to a strict ethical code.” Many define integrity as “what you do when no one else is looking.” I would add . . . maybe we can look and learn.

Most people think one, two, or three steps ahead. Steve likes to say he thinks so many steps ahead, that he often trips on the first stop—and he laughs. Let’s start at the beginning.

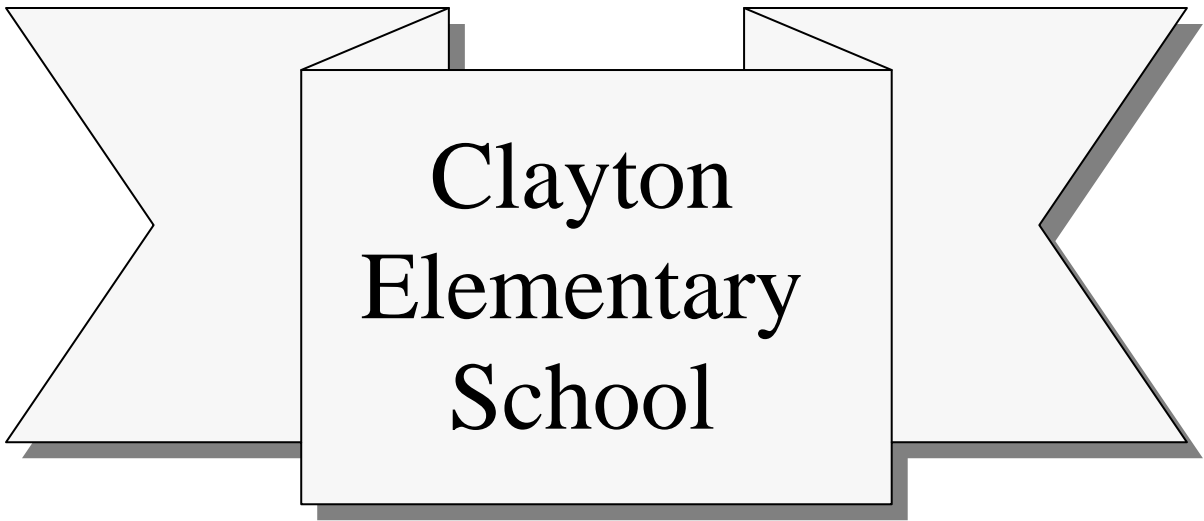
Like mine, Steve’s parents were depression era kids. His father ran the family farm at age 12 until he left for MIT at age 16. Steve’s parents lost everything when he was age 4. Steve worked from age 12 to pay for college on his own. His father taught him many things, including that not paying a debt is not an option. Steve’s inner drive brings to mind the Timex commercials of our youth: he can “take a licking and keep on ticking” while speaking the truth—all at the same time.

He constantly probes to find the truth. He consumes numbers to find their truth, the stories they tell, and the people who tell them. I suppose he thinks the truth will do the maximum good with the least harm to others. A couple of examples:

1. From age 14 to 18 he worked at a car wash. He likes to say he was the only employee without a criminal record. His experience there was that even in an organization comprised of criminals you need an honest bookkeeper. Of the eight worker positions there, one position was in charge of the tip jar. When Steve wasn’t at that position, tips averaged \$.50 per hour (min. wage \$1.50). When he was there tips averaged \$1.00 per hour. The difference: courteous service and no stealing of the tips. Eventually all the other workers asked for Steve to stay at the tip position and the manager in turn gave him a raise.
2. As a landlord, one day he discovered a toilet clogged by a misplaced hygiene product. The customer admitted the mistake. The repair cost was \$400. He valued her honesty more—the truth should not be punished, just not repeated.
3. As an office manager, he walks the talk. Even the smallest cash purchases are respected—he never takes money from the petty cash and expects the same of our office team. While not required, every year he has another accountant review the books and speak directly to the president.

In sum, the right path—in business or in life—is rarely the shortest or cheapest path. Steve intuitively avoids the slippery slopes. He is Mr. “Integrity” and he is my husband.

Stephanie Steckel
Gold Award, Adult



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

My friend Tyler has integrity. He found my wallet and gave it back with the money in it.

Isabel Wilson

First Place, Kindergarten

My brother Steven has integrity. He broke my jewelry box and told the truth.

Stephilyn Hart

Second Place, Kindergarten

My mom has integrity. When she found money she tried to find the owner.

Kevin Woodruff

Third Place, Kindergarten

Do you know somebody who has integrity? My best friend Alyssa Lynn Ide does. She plays fair, she is honest, and she does not lie to me. She's a good friend. She shares with me when we're outside. She lets me pick the game that we play outside. That is fair.

Amaya Ridgeway

First Place, Grade 1

Do you know someone who shows integrity? My friend Savannah does. We play Twister and she plays fair. She lets me spin and she doesn't cheat. She shows integrity by playing fair.

Rachel Youngcourt

Second Place, Grade 1

Lee is a person with integrity. When he was little he spilled juice on his mom's rug but he told the truth. Lee promised that he would come to my house and he did. Once he took us skating and he gave us toys. It was very fun too. Lee shows integrity.

Marie Youngcourt

Third Place, Grade 1

Crack! Crack! Hey, I stepped on money. Should we keep it? No, I think we should give it to the cash register lady. I know that Alexandra would do that if she found money on the floor. Hey, did I mention you can trust her? When I need her she is always there. She is always trustworthy! That is how I know I can trust her. She is like Abraham Lincoln I think. If she found something that was not hers, she would take it to the lost and found. She never lies in games and now you know if you find integrity you will find Alexandra.

Jordan Hill
First Place, Grade 2

Did you see anyone show integrity before? I have and I sure want to tell you about it. Integrity is when you are honest and trustworthy. If you cheat at a game be honest and tell the person. Integrity is also when you don't lie. If you broke a lamp tell a family member and they will clean it up. Now I want to tell you about someone who shows integrity. She is my cousin Coley. She always shows integrity to me and other people. First of all she never lies to me. When she lost my toy she was honest and told me. Coley is trustworthy. If I tell her a secret, she never tells other people. She stands up for me too. On her bus a boy called me a mean name, but Coley stood up for me. Coley plays volleyball. She is honest about it. If it isn't her turn she waits. Coley shows the most integrity in the world. I bet you can't find a girl who shows that much integrity just like my cousin.

Kayla Wilson
Second Place, Grade 2

Do you know somebody who has integrity? My dad does. My dad is fair, brave, honest, and friendly. He helps the members of my family and especially me. My dad is as nice as cool lemonade on a summer day.

First, he's brave by standing up for people no matter what. He stood up for my sister when she didn't have enough money for her car. Next, he is fair. Even if my brother is not making a good choice, he talks to him about finding a good choice. He's very kind even if he's mad. Finally, he's honest. He tells the truth even if it's hard to tell the truth about my nana's medicine. He keeps her healthy even though she lives by herself. Do you want to meet my dad? I love him so much.

Jen Sloven
Third Place, Grade 2

What is integrity? Integrity is someone who is good, fair and honest. When I think of a person who shows integrity I think of our president of the United States, Barak Obama.

One Wednesday night as I was watching TV I saw President Obama. I didn't know what he was talking about so I asked my mom and dad what he was saying. They said he was trying to make life better for all Americans. They told me he was trying to make sure every American had the chance to see a doctor even if they did not have enough money to pay for it. This is showing integrity by being fair.

They also told me he was trying to help people who did not have a job by helping to create new jobs. Helping people find jobs is important. This is how President Obama shows integrity by being good. He also said that he wanted America to be a better place, and he was not going to give up on our country. This shows he is honest and cares for our country and us.

I hope to be just like President Obama, and I think President Obama is a perfect person to show an example of integrity.

Caitlin McCutchan

First Place, Grade 3

If I chose someone who shows integrity it would be Alex. To Alex and me integrity means being honest, trustworthy, and fair. One way Alex shows integrity is by being honest. He was being honest when he lost one of my toys. Instead of lying and saying "my cat broke it," he told the truth, even though it would hurt my feelings and I might get a little mad at him. Alex was honest. That's one reason why I chose Alex.

Alex is also very fair. Alex is fair because if we are arguing about something he'll go get a coin and we'll flip it to see what we play. Also when we play the Wii, Alex makes sure we each take turns and play the game we want to play.

I can also trust Alex very much. I know he is trustworthy because he took care of my goldfish, Swimmey, when I went on vacation. He took very good care of him. Alex made sure his cat didn't hurt Swimmey. Alex fed him once a day, and when I came back to get Swimmey he was safe and sound.

Did you figure out why I chose Alex yet? Alex has been a great role model to other children. Alex has even taught me how to show integrity.

Aaron Lewis

Second Place, Grade 3

Dun, dun, da, da—if you don't know what integrity is then you came to the right boy! Integrity means to me that a person is honest, responsible, and shows trustworthiness and fairness. The person who shows all those core values is my classmate, Dylan Chi.

Honesty is important. It means to not lie and to tell the truth. It all started one day in the classroom right after recess, Mrs. Kassner asked five people if they owed their time. They said no, but Dylan said yes. Mrs. Kassner said, "I trust you." That's the honest way.

What did you say? You want to know what fairness is. Fairness means sharing stuff. One day there were no basketballs outside to play with. I asked people if I could share their basketballs and they all said NO. When I asked Dylan, he said yes. So we played basketball happily.

Trustworthy means sharing stuff and making sure that person gives it back. If you are trustworthy, that person will let you borrow stuff. Tap, tap, tap went Dylan's hand on my desk. "Hey can I borrow a pencil?" "Sure," I said "but make sure I get it back." I gave Dylan my eraser too. The next day he gave it back to me. Since he treated it so well I said he could have it.

Dylan is a good person for an integrity medal. Wow he shows integrity everywhere and every day. Tell me about your person or write about someone in your life who shows integrity. I can't wait to read yours.

Chris Desir

Third Place, Grade 3

Do you know someone who shows integrity? Well I do. Someone who shows integrity is honest, fair, nice and, most important of all, trustworthy. That number one person who I know is Danielle. If you want to know how she shows integrity then read on.

To start off, let me tell you a little story about Danielle. But first, I'm going to tell you a little something. All right Danielle is always honest. She would never lie to anyone. So now let's get on with the story. One time Danielle went to school and left her homework at home. So when the teacher realized Danielle didn't have her homework, she called her over to her desk. The teacher asked, "Why don't you have your homework?" Instead of lying, Danielle was honest and said what happened. She replied, "I forgot my homework on my kitchen table." Then she said, "I am sorry, I will bring it in tomorrow." Danielle wrote a reminder note and took in her homework the next day. That is how Danielle shows she is honest.

Now the second thing about displaying integrity is being fair. Danielle is very fair. One time we were making gingerbread houses. Danielle got picked to sort the candies equally for her and her group members. So instead of making sure she got more—which is what a lot of kids do—Danielle made sure that everyone in her group got the same amount. Not even her best friend Casey got more than anyone else. Boy! Danielle sure does love candy, but that just goes to show how much Danielle is fair.

The last thing you need in order to show integrity is to be nice. I mean the simplest thing you could do to be nice is to give somebody a compliment like “Hey, I like your hair” or something like that. But Danielle definitely shows a lot more than that. She makes sure she is nice to everyone—even people who don’t say anything to her. Let’s see; all right I know. One time I didn’t have anybody to play with at recess. Danielle saw I needed someone to play with during that time. She was already playing with her friends but she really didn’t want me to feel left out. So, she asked if I wanted to play with her and I said “Yes.” But here is the thing. Danielle already was the singer and I really wanted to be the singer. So Danielle said, “All right then I will be the judge.” So instead of being mean and saying, “No, I’m being the singer and you’re being the judge,” she was nice and let me get the part. That is one of the ways Danielle is nice.

Now, if you demonstrate all of these traits, then you are trustworthy and show integrity. If you show all of these qualities, just like Danielle, you definitely show integrity.

Jessica Bright
First Place, Grade 4

Do you want to know who my best friend is? His name is Gary and he demonstrates integrity every day. Gary is such an awesome friend. He shows integrity by playing fair, not cheating, not lying, being a good student, and being trustworthy. I can tell Gary anything and it will stay a secret FOREVER. Are you ready? Here we go.

The first thing I will inform you about Gary is how he plays fair when we are playing. A lot of times I’m the referee during soccer at recess. If I announce that something is or isn’t a goal or out of bounds, Gary doesn’t try to argue with me like some people do. If Gary drops two rocks in his big bowl when we play Mancala, he fixes it and is honest. In checkers, I knew the rules at the time, and when I told Gary that he wasn’t supposed to do something; he fixed it as fast as lightening. Gary doesn’t try to cheat. He plays fair. Games are always more fun when everyone playing doesn’t cheat. That’s one way that Gary shows integrity.

Next, I will tell you about how Gary is a good student. I will also tell you about how he doesn’t copy off of other papers or lie. When we are taking tests or doing something for a grade, Gary doesn’t even try to copy because he knows that he would get in trouble. Gary takes pride in being a good student at school. Also, if an adult asks him a question, he never ever lies. If you want to know the last reason how Gary shows integrity, keep on reading.

The last way that Gary shows integrity that I’m going to tell you is how I can trust him so, so much. I can tell him pretty much anything. I told Gary a secret before, and I told him not to tell anyone, and he promised not to. Now I told him about three or four weeks ago and he still didn’t tell anyone. My secrets are always safe with Gary.

Now you know all about my best friend Gary. You may think that those are the only ways that he shows integrity, but they're not. There are many other ways that Gary shows integrity but I was just naming a few. That's it. Thank you very much for reading.

Meghan Yerkes

Second Place, Grade 4

Hey, do you know anybody who shows more integrity than the person I am writing about? Well of course you don't. I am talking about my Pop-pop Potter. He shows a lot of integrity for others, such as my family and me. He has shown integrity all through his life, 1911 – 2009. He has done it because he knows you should treat others how you want to be treated. Keep on reading to find out my Pop-pop Potter's qualities that make him show integrity.

My Pop-pop Potter shows a lot of qualities so people can see the integrity in him. One example of a quality is he is helpful to my church. Another quality he has is that he is faithful, and he has many qualities (but I can only state a few) like he never lies. Last but not least, he has helped many families, even if he does not know them. Those are some of my Pop-pop's qualities. Now keep on reading to find out the examples my Pop-pop shows for others.

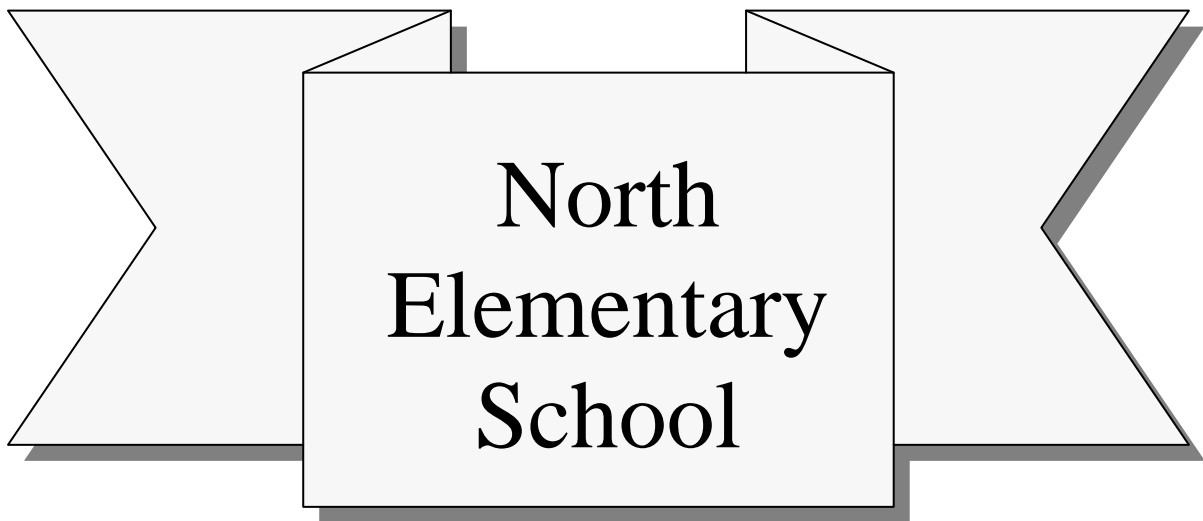
The example I am about to tell you is very important in terms of integrity. He had built cabinets for our church. He took so much of his time to build those cabinets, and the church really appreciated the cabinets. They used them for the less fortunate. That is the best example anybody can set because even though it is just a plain old cabinet, he had still thought of the less fortunate.

The last example I am going to tell you about is another important term of integrity. My Pop-pop puts other's feelings first which is very important. Whenever we are sad, he is always there to cheer us up. One visit from him and you will be thankful for all you have. Lastly, he always knows how to cheer you up by asking about childhood memories. My Pop-pop is a generous person, and he always knows how to cheer you up on the worst day.

Unfortunately I can only tell you some of the important qualities of my Pop-pop Potter and how he shows integrity. My Pop-pop Potter was a good man and you will never find anyone that shows more integrity than him. Although he may not be a superhero in real life, he will always be to me and nobody can change that.

Autumn Potter

Third Place, Grade 4



North
Elementary
School

Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

My mom and dad show integrity by not cheating at games. My mom doesn't use bad words. When it snowed my dad helped pull peoples' cars out on Route 1. I love my mom and dad.

Madison Arsenault
First Place, Kindergarten

My mommy shows integrity by helping me brush my hair and my mom shows integrity by not lying.

Bianca Bowland-Michon
Second Place, Kindergarten

I show integrity when I'm taking turns on the hoop.

Owen Withrow
Third Place, Kindergarten

Have you ever met a new friend? A friend is always honest to you. A friend is always fair to you. You're always supposed to trust a friend. You are always supposed to love your friend as much as your friend loves you. Do you have a friend with integrity? Shelby is honest to me because she tells the truth. She is fair to me because she shares with me. I trust Shelby. I love her because she is herself. Shelby is my best friend!

Victoria Jordan
First Place, Grade 1

How do firemen show integrity? Firemen help people by getting them out of burning buildings. They put out fires. People trust firemen because they are heroes. Firemen are the best!

Shayne Wilson
Second Place, Grade 1

What is integrity? Integrity is being honest. Gabe is honest by saying he did something. He was honest when he ate my candy. I feel happy when he tells the truth.

Robbie Robinson

Third Place, Grade 1

Mrs. Mercer shows integrity because she is honest, fair, good, and trustworthy. Mrs. Mercer is honest because she doesn't lie. So if we have a pizza and ice cream party and if it is cancelled she will tell us. She is fair and she doesn't have a favorite. She picks a stick for the morning menu. She is also good. She shares erasers and pencils but sometimes I don't need any. Mrs. Mercer is trustworthy because if I want to tell her something or a secret, she won't tell. That is why she shows integrity. Mrs. Mercer is the best teacher ever.

Alisiya Stephens

First Place, Grade 2

What I am going to talk about today is integrity, and I will be talking about my dad. You know how fathers try to express their love? He tells me he loves me every day. He is trustworthy and he is responsible. He tells me to stop talking in class. He buys me a lot of toys! I do not love him because of what he does for me. I love him for who he is. He helps me get strong. I go to church with him. I enjoy being with him and my baby sister and brothers.

Bre'yon Colander

Second Place, Grade 2

My mom-mom has a lot of integrity and she is thoughtful! My mom-mom is fair because when I was playing with play dough and my cousin wanted to play with me, my mom-mom just split it in half and made it fair. I just told you some integrity. Next my mom-mom was honest about when I lost my teddy bear. She told me where it was and it was there! She was so honest. My mom-mom has so much integrity. My mom-mom is trustworthy because when she promises me she always keeps her promises.

Ava Acton

Third Place, Grade 2

Do you want to learn about my enjoyable, awesome mother? She shows more integrity than you could ever imagine. She is helpful, honest, caring and of course respectful of others. Mom

reveals all four of those characteristics when she helps the family, at school, and lastly the wonderful community.

First, she's very caring and helpful with my fantastic family! She always says family comes first before anything else. When my awesome brother had a hurt liver, she stayed with him the entire time even when he was in the gigantic emergency room. Also, once my dad got a scar from a light bulb. Mother was with him the whole time he got stitches. Last, but not least, she helps me with my large pile of homework and takes my dog out when she has to go to the bathroom. I love having her there to help me.

Next, I'm going to tell you about school. Mom and school are like best friends. She's a reading teacher. Mom also gets lesson plans ready for other teachers. Mother always gets up at 5:00 am and gets to school by 6:50 am. Also she stays extra late every starry night. Mom helped me out when we had mini society. She was my helper. I couldn't live without my mother.

Community is one of mom's favorite things to do. Mom volunteers for a ton of things. At Christmas time she rings the bells. The money goes to the poor too. She also contributes lots of money. Mommy gives money to the church. Mom also gives money to the Ronald McDonald House. Mom is the best.

That's how the most amazing mom shows integrity. Mother exhibits her integrity with a lot more things that just my family, school and community. She is always honest, caring, helpful and respectful. I love my amazing mom.

Emily Marthaler

First Place, Grade 3

Some people have integrity and some people may not have it. Today I'm going to talk to you about someone who has integrity. The person is my grandma, and I call her mom-mom

One thing is that she is honest. For example, she never lies to me. When my mom makes something new for dinner, she gives her honest opinion if she likes it.

Another thing about her is that she is fair. She will give me and my sister the same amount of cookies unless one of us does not want that many cookies. Her cookies are so good. You should try them. That is why I think she is fair.

There are more things about my mom-mom, but now we are going to talk about how she is a good person. She is my favorite grandma because she helps me when I sew and she lets me use her china tea set. It is so pretty! I think my grandma has integrity because she sticks up for me and has never let me down.

Now you just heard why my grandma has integrity. She is honest, fair and a good person. That is why she has integrity. Does someone in your family have integrity?

Grace Dunning
Second Place, Grade 3

My dad has integrity on so many levels. He shows integrity at work, cub scouts and at home. He's honest, fair and does the right thing.

Every day my dad does the right thing. He gets up early in the morning and goes right to work. My dad is a carpenter and builds houses. He makes sure all the houses are safe. He also does what his boss says and follows directions.

My dad always treats me fairly because he always listens to my side of the story. When I get in trouble he's the fairest person in the world. He is fair because he lets me get whatever I want sometimes. He makes sure I get fed by making me dinner.

My dad is honest because he always returns things to the owner. He always tells the truth. He never takes tools from people at work.

Now you know why I picked my dad to write about. He shows integrity at home, at work, and at cub scouts. I love my dad and I want to grow up to have as much integrity as he does.

Noah Burns
Third Place, Grade 3

Finally! Our school vacation has ended so now I can once again be at school with my favorite teacher who is Mrs. Hall. I think she is the most amazing teacher who her students love because she always shows integrity. When I think of a person who always shows integrity I turn to look at her faster than you can count to one! Mrs. Hall always shows integrity with her students at school, helping the community and with her family. We all love her and she is the BEST!

As I told you before, Mrs. Hall teaches kids in fourth grade. We, as her students, think it's her major talent. One thing we love about her is that, no matter what, she will always take us by who we are. Also she is probably the most patient teacher in the whole district because, although she may have had to explain something more than enough times, if we don't understand the assignment she will explain it again. Lastly, she will always grade fairly. My teacher is an expert at grading any paper from any subject. Wouldn't you like to have a teacher like that? Well, I think that every student in her class is very fortunate to have her teach us every school day.

Second of all, Mrs. Hall has a wide-open heart for others who are in need. She shows that by helping with the Thanksgiving dinner in the firehouse for the ones who have nowhere to go. Another act was when she went shopping for Christmas gifts to give to the poor. Not only did she do that, Mrs. Hall also donated things for cancer. Last, but not least, she gave money to the people in Haiti who are suffering from the different types of storms. Mrs. Hall will always be accepted anywhere she goes by who she is—a kind, thoughtful person

Lastly, she shows integrity to her whole family. She is a great mom for Anna and Alli, her two daughters. Listening is one thing that she will do for anyone. Also she will respect everything you say. Finally, their mom will always correct them to lead them into something that's right, and she will always give them advice. By the way, I personally think that she would win first place for the Mother of the Year Contest.

It's a great feeling having her close by. Mrs. Hall will always show integrity in her acts whether she's teaching, helping the community or being with her family. We all love her. So, if one day you're lucky enough to meet her you'll see that she is wonderful! Also remember that you have a great treasure by your side!

Anílu Paneda

First Place, Grade 4

My mom-mom is the number one person I know with integrity. I see now that integrity is very important. She has integrity at her job, at home and in her community. She has so much integrity that she could fill a whole boat with integrity. This is why I have chosen my mom-mom.

The first place she shows integrity is at her job. She will stay faithful always being there even if she is sick. She is able to be trusted with important stuff. She is fair. One time she had someone pay \$50 over the price. So she jumped in her car and drove to the woman's house to give her back the \$50. This is how she has integrity at her job.

The second place she shows integrity is at home. She keeps her promise to everyone. One time she got stuck in the snow and she had to be at our house because she was bringing our medicine. So she got out of her silver car and walked the rest of the way. Also she helps to care for her elderly mother and provide assistance to stay in her own home.

Last, but not least, she has integrity in her community by helping others. When she was a little kid she picked up trash on her green grass. When she was a senior in high school she delivered food to the elderly. Now as an adult she donates to the Salvation Army. These are some ways she shows integrity in her community.

Now you can see my mom-mom has a lot of integrity. She has integrity at her job. She also has integrity at home. Last, she has integrity in her community. I learned now what integrity means.

Ivy Legar

Second Place, Grade 4

I'm so excited! Guess what? Today in class we got to do a new writing prompt and it was all about a person with integrity. I just didn't know who to pick. Should I have chosen my mom, my neighbor, Madison (oh wait I did her last year.) Who would I pick? I thought. Now I have it—my mom-mom! She is always kind and helpful, fair and honest. She can be at Wal-Mart or in West Bay (her community). She can have integrity anywhere she goes.

My mom-mom is helpful to everybody. She helps her neighbor "Dock" across the street because his wife passed away. She goes down to Florida to help her friend "Babe" in February and March every year. She also sends food, cleaning, and emergency supplies to the army every summer. She once convinced me to have a lemonade stand and donate the money to charity. When I did, I felt so proud because we made \$42.74. My mom-mom is as sweet as honey and her niceness is as dazzling as sparkling grape soda.

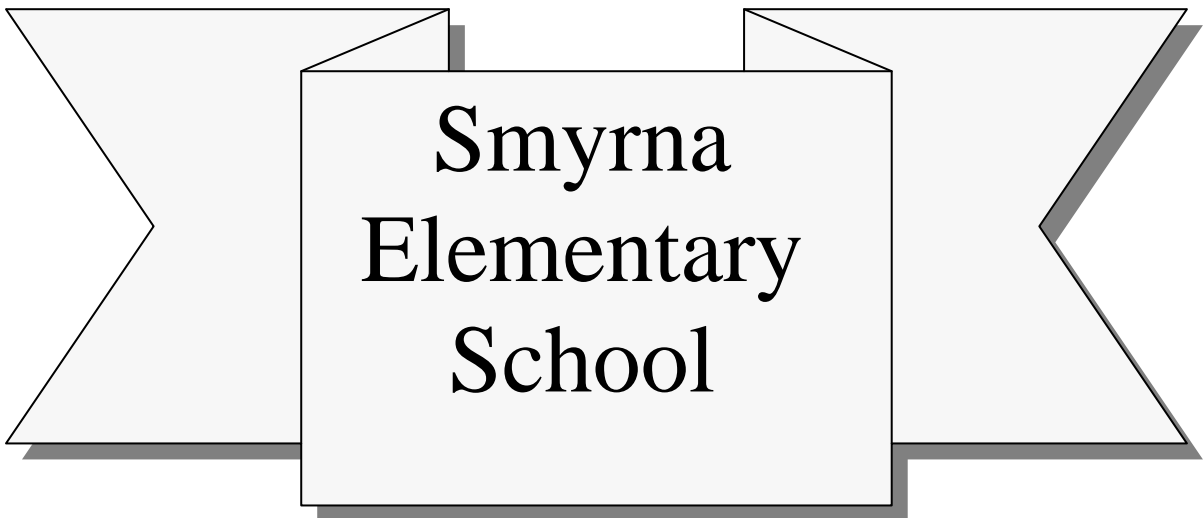
My mom-mom's fairness is as wonderful as the first snow of the season. During the magnificent holidays, the presents my brother and I get are always equivalent. Sometimes we even get the same exact things. In another example of fairness, she loves to play games. When kids play games, they usually cheat, don't follow the rules, or make a big deal if they win or lose, but not my mom-mom. When she wins she doesn't do much. When she loses she doesn't care and she's never cheated. Where she works is really cool. She works on the Ferry Boat to Cape May and she's fair there too.

Lastly, she's always honest. She has never lied to me or my family before. On April 4, 2009, my parents went on a trip to Jamaica for their anniversary. My mom-mom stayed and watched my brother and me for a week. After my parents left, I felt sad and missed them. So my mom-mom told me we would repaint and remodel the bathroom before she told even my brother about it. When we were done and my mom and dad got home, they loved it so much.

Now as you can see, my mom-mom is always nice, honest, helpful, and fair. But it all equals up to integrity. She helps my family and me and her friends. She is always fair to me, and most of all always honest. I couldn't ask for a better mom-mom than her.

Erin Smallwood

Third Place, Grade 4



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

Kassidy has integrity. She is nice and she is fair with everybody.

Alison Cherriman

First Place, Kindergarten

My brother has integrity. He tells the truth, even when he hits me.

Dylan Booth

Second Place, Kindergarten

I think a policeman because he helps people and he stops bad guys.

Ian Murphy

Third Place, Kindergarten

Do you know who shows integrity? Adelisa! She tells the truth even if she gets in trouble, because she knows if she tells the truth she'll get in less trouble. You can always trust her to do the right thing because she never lies no matter what happens. When she plays tennis or other games made for two she changes it a little bit if other people want to play and we pick teams. She is a good friend. She makes people happy.

Kaniya Jones

First Place, Grade 1

My person is Bella because Bella is very nice, and Bella gave back a ticket to Keyla. That's why she has integrity.

Elias Prosser

Second Place, Grade 1

Do you know who shows integrity? My mommy shows me integrity! I can trust my mommy to keep my secrets. Shhh! My mommy gives me and my sister Bella the same amount of snacks. I'm very, very, very proud of my mommy!

Jenna Carroll

Third Place, Grade 1

Truth, truth, truth, Sharice always tells the truth! Who do you think Sharice is? She's my sister and she tells the truth no matter what. I remember one time my sister did something really bad. I'll tell you it. Crack! Sharice broke a glass. What do you think she should do? I think she should tell the truth, don't you? I knew she would because she did and she always will! At least that's what I think. You always should have somebody to trust! She knows if you don't tell the truth, the person that you lied to will find out sooner or later.

You know what you should do? I'll tell you an example. One time I left the \$40.50 I got for my birthday on the table in the living room. I was about to go to sleep and Sharice stopped me and said, "Hey Teyonna, you left your money on the table." I thanked her and gave her a hug and went to bed. That is the end of my writing and my story.

Teyonna Tucker

First Place, Grade 2

Would you like to know about a person who shows and sets examples of integrity? Well, my dad does. I know him because he's in my family.

First, daddy is very honest when it comes to dinner being done late or waking up late. Next, he also keeps promises when he says he will be home from work late or just about every other thing. Last, when we play board games, he doesn't cheat. He asks questions if he doesn't know what move to make.

Now you should know that my dad shows integrity at many times. Plus, you should know some examples of integrity now. Is there a person in your family that's like this?

Kobe Conomon

Second Place, Grade 2

Do you want to hear about the person that has the most integrity in the world? The person I'm writing about today is my mom, and I'm writing about her because she has integrity. I know her because she is in my family.

First, my mom does the right thing by yelling at me when she has to. Next, she's a good mom because she lets me have a snack after school. After that, my wonderful mom takes me to school on time because she wants me to learn.

Last, you should have learned that my mom has integrity, and you should have learned what integrity means.

Douglas Mancini

Third Place, Grade 2

Have you ever thought about who shows the most integrity in your life? Integrity is important to have, whether you show it or someone shows it to you. Integrity is not being kind or persevering. It is earning trust, admitting your mistakes, and doing what's right. These are many reasons I choose my mom for the person who shows the most integrity in my life. Some of the reasons include that she is trusted to do certain responsibilities like putting money into people's bank accounts. My mom knows that if she doesn't get her work done, it affects everyone. So she keeps working her best. She even works during her lunch break! My mom is also high up in her career so she has to be a good role model which she is very good at. If she doesn't get her work done she admits it and is truthful about her mistakes. That is why I chose my mom as the person who shows the most integrity in my life, and I think if all of us show integrity like my mom the world would be a better place.

Tyler Yeomans

First Place, Grade 3

Have you ever kept an eye out for someone with integrity? If you have, I've discovered someone for you! Her name is Chloe. Chloe shows integrity in three categories. The three categories are fairness, honesty, and good behavior. When Chloe is fair she includes everyone so their feelings aren't hurt. When she includes other people she does it in a merry and friendly way. Another way Chloe shows fairness is by taking turns so everyone feels they've had a fair amount of time playing with something. One other way Chloe shows fairness is how she shares her things with other people. She doesn't mind at all (as long as you're careful). Good behavior is a bright star for Chloe. One of the many ways Chloe is good is when she listens to the teacher. She wouldn't dare disobey the teacher. (I'm not kidding!) Now just let me tell you how she does as she is told even if it is for other people. If her mother asked her, "Chloe, could you get your sister a glass of water?" Chloe would just stop what she was doing, walk to the fridge, get some water, go give it to her sister, and go back to playing without complaining. Now, here is what integrity is all about: choosing the correct thing, even if it will get her in trouble. (Not that

she is ever in trouble.) This shows that Chloe is a girl who knows how to show integrity. Would you enjoy being like Chloe? I know I would.

Leah Gaynor

Second Place, Grade 3

My father, Sandy Shalk, shows integrity all the time. He is the curriculum director for the Smyrna School District. My dad is also a college teacher. He shows all the core values but he shows integrity the most. He is always being so fair, honest, and good to everybody.

He is very honest. One time we went to a Phillies game and we were all pretty energetic until a guy dropped his hat. My dad came to the rescue, and the person who dropped it was really elated because it was a \$70 hat! Boy my dad taught me a lesson in honesty. Another example of my father's honesty would be the time my family went to buy a bike for my brother Alec. We purchased a \$60 bike and the clerk gave us an extra \$20. The store clerk didn't notice but my dad did. He went right back to the man and gave him \$20 back. The clerk was delighted because he would have been down the drain for letting \$20 fly right out of the register. He was very honest for giving back the \$20 because he could have just taken it and bought something else and walked away. Also my dad was very honest to give the man's hat back because he could have worn it and called it his.

Another example would be the time my family went to the high school during Christmas break. It was called the Grinch Gallop. A lot of people were there and we competed in a walking race but my dad did not cheat. He stayed at a perfect pace and it all paid off. We helped a librarian and Alec won. This was so fair of my dad. I thought so because he could have pushed his way through but instead he walked like he should have.

My dad shows so much integrity there is more to write about him. This one day my family went to Newark to shop. Everyone knows you need "greens" to shop. So off we went to an ATM. You know what we saw in the card slot? Someone's card! My dad went back to the man and gave it back.

I'm so proud of my dad for showing so much integrity. I wish I was just like him. He is always being fair, honest, and always, I mean always, does the right thing. I just shouldn't be like him, everybody should. That is why my dad shows integrity all the time.

Colin Shalk

First Place, Grade 4

Do you know an example of an honest, good and fair person who has integrity? Well, if you don't you should definitely take a look at this! My brother Ben is a boatload of integrity. He is

in 10th grade and he's 16. I'm so glad I don't have to worry about him stealing stuff or being mean to me. Here is how he's very good.

One day I got a ginger ale from a soda machine. How you ask? Because I searched through my back pack and discovered four quarters! I was so energetic when I saw them because I usually blow all my money. I decided to go to the soda machine and get myself an ice cold ginger ale. I put my ginger ale in the fridge so I could have it after dinner. But after dinner it was gone and I was hostile! You can imagine how upset I was. I thought I'd never find out who drank it until my brother Ben came and said he did it. I was mad, but I was also delighted to know that my brother told me. This is why I think he is honest.

My brother is so good that he looks after me when school is over when my parents are still at work, and he doesn't even throw a fit when my parents ask him to. Next, he is good more than once because every single day he gets his homework done and gives it to his teachers. Last, he is good because he does the dishes (which no one else wants to do). I'm sure he doesn't want to either but he does them anyway.

I have no doubt that my brother is fair, because you can always play a game with him and he won't cheat. Here's an example. One day I said to Ben that I was bored and he said, "Why don't we play Monopoly (another act of kindness)?" So we played and I was winning but our parents came home and said it was time to go. When we came back he reminded me that I was winning. As you can see, he could have said he was winning because there were three people playing (me, my other brother Colin, and him). He was in last place. I have one last thing to say about my brother being fair. He is fair because my mom bought three packs of sour straws. My brothers and I all got one pack. Ben really likes the candy, but he split them up. That way we could all have the same amount. Well now you know he is fair.

I hope that you can see how Ben is so filled with integrity. If only you had a brother like this. He is always honest, good, and fair. These are all the reasons why he has integrity.

Alec Shalk

Second Place, Grade 4

Do you ever think about who shows the most integrity? Well that's what I was doing today and I think that person is my best friend Berit. I'm going to tell you three reasons why. So sit back, relax and keep reading.

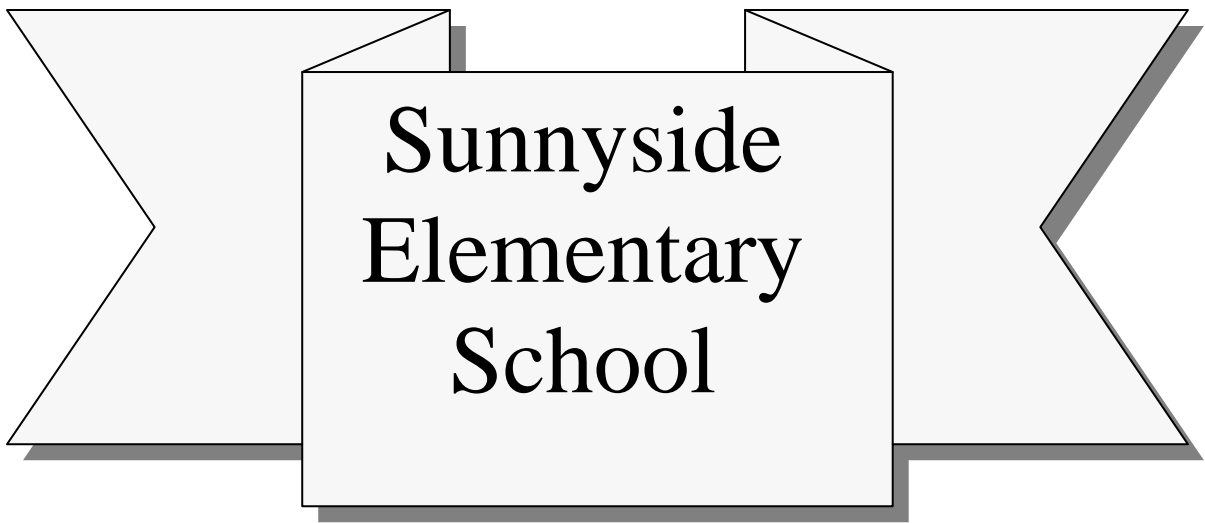
First I am going to start with how she was being helpful. About one or two years ago I had Accelerated Math to do so Berit decided that she would stay in and help me out. She is also one of the most honest people that I know. In school one day Berit got six tickets when she was only supposed to have five. She did the most honest thing and gave one back. Now if you don't think that's honest, I don't know what is. My friend Berit is also a very, very, very, very (well you get the picture) fair person to all. Just so you know how fair she is I will prove it to you. Sometimes do you notice that lots of people cheat off other's papers? Here's a cool fact about Berit. She

has never cheated off anyone's paper. Plus she will never do anything to disobey the rules. That's why I think she is fair.

So now you know how Berit is helpful, honest, and fair. Do you agree that she is full of integrity? If you still don't think she is a person with integrity, someone needs to get you to the hospital. Maybe sometimes you should sit down and think about who shows the most integrity in your life.

Emmy Brittingham

Third Place, Grade 4



Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4

My dad helps people and he stops people. He is a good policeman and he shows that he is the police.

Nick Richardson
First Place, Kindergarten

I found a call phone on the ground on Halloween Day. I picked it up and I found the owner. I gave it back to her.

Isabella Reyes
Second Place, Kindergarten

My big sister shows integrity. She is fair when we play games together.

Laila Gilliam
Third Place, Kindergarten

Do you have integrity? Integrity is being dependable and trustworthy just like my BFF. One cold, windy day on the bus I was wearing the charm bracelet Lauren gave me. I dropped it on the floor and it started to move. It was my bus stop. It rolled under the front seat, and she grabbed it. She gave it back to me and I got off the bus. She is always my friend no matter what. Integrity is important so everyone will be nice.

Sophia DeMarco
First Place, Grade 1

Anyone who shares has integrity. A person with integrity is Sean. He shares the computer with me. He also shares his toys. Sean always shares his Webkinz too, even though they are his. Having integrity is the right thing to do because if you show integrity to others, they will show integrity to you. Thank you for listening.

Erin Finney
Second Place, Grade 1

If you are honest and sincere you are a person with integrity. A person with integrity is me. I go to school every day and do what I am supposed to. I am prepared by doing my homework. Yes, having integrity is important because people with no integrity could do bad things like steal. I hope you have integrity!

Ryan Cole

Third Place, Grade 1

Ding, dong, everybody listen up; time to hear about Sunnyside Elementary special star Melisa Castilant. She shows lots of integrity. If you ask her something she will always reply. She never lies. She is trustworthy too. We've been friends since she moved on my street. She's very loyal and fair. She's friendly to everyone she meets no matter who they are. She's good in school even if she doesn't want to do something. She's been student of the week once and I bet she will be again. She's a very good role model to me so I'll treat her the way she wants to be treated.

Azariah Torain

First Place, Grade 2

Do you know why I am writing about Zoe? I picked Zoe because she is fair. She shows integrity because she tells the truth. The most honest thing about her is she never says "I can't do this." She is honest because she tells everybody her secrets and she doesn't lie. She is fair because one time she had a cookie and she gave me half and we both had half of a cookie. She was being trustworthy. One time I let her borrow my toy and she said that she would give it back and she did.

These are ways that Zoe shows integrity.

Kaylah Briscoe

Third Place, Grade 2

Do you ever show integrity? Well my dad does. He is always fair, honest, and trustworthy. He always shows integrity. He always works hard at anything he does. He helps his family whenever he can. He makes me proud of him. Integrity is always doing the right thing.

First, my dad is always honest. He never lies. When he was on a diet he craved a yummy candy bar, but he couldn't have one. When I asked, "Do you want a bite of my candy bar?" he said no. He takes medicine to help his sugar. That is why he can't have any kind of candy. When my

dad and I were at Royal Farms he saw the candy aisle. I could see him looking out of the corner of his eye, but he walked right past the aisle and kept smiling. I think my dad is honest with himself because when he sees candy he doesn't want to bother with it. I can't believe how honest my dad is.

Secondly, my dad always makes good choices. He helps me with my homework. When I'm stuck on homework, he'll come over and help me, but he won't tell me the answer. He likes exercising around the development and with my Wii Fit. Well, I wouldn't call him a professional track runner, but he does like to walk at a fast pace. He knows that exercising is a good choice for making himself strong and healthy. My dad owns a taxi company and the name of it is George's Taxi. He is always very busy because when the customers call day or night my dad always has to go. One of the things that makes me proud of my dad is when a customer who has no money calls George's Taxi and asks for a ride, he will give them a ride for free; and if they are hungry and have had no food he will buy them some food. My dad does enjoy helping homeless shelters too. I can't believe my dad always makes good choices to help others and himself. That's why I am proud to call him my daddy.

Last, my dad is fair every day. If we're playing a game of Old Maids or Candyland he would always let me go first. Sometimes I know that my dad lets me win so I feel good about myself. When my friends and I play soccer, my dad always makes sure there are an equal number of people on each team. My dad has a total of five children and he always does something fair and nice for all of us. That's why he loves all of us in the same way. That's why I think my dad is so, so fair.

Wow, my dad shows so much integrity. I think he's a wonderful man. He means a lot to me. If something happened to him, I would cry my eyes out. As you can see, my dad shows a lot of integrity to his family and to others.

Shannon Glew
Second Place, Grade 3

My cousin Molly is the one person full of trust. For all you people out there who don't know what integrity is, well listen up. Integrity means an attitude of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and goodness. My cousin Molly is very special to me because she is an awesomely great, loving teen with braces. This is an integrity-filled person.

First, I should let you grab a chair because you're going to flip out once you hear about how trustworthy she is. The first thing is whenever my parents ask her to babysit she says yes. One time when she babysat me, my parents weren't too sure about it. She was the best babysitter ever to me. My parents trusted her and she tried her hardest. My parents proudly said she can babysit us whenever she wants because she was GREAT!

Secondly, you're going to learn about how magnificently reliable Molly is. My loving cousin Molly is reliable because when my parents go out Molly always cleans up, makes lunch,

breakfast, and dinner, and entertains me and my brothers. Here is another reason why she is reliable. She does things without being asked, and she does her chores with pride. The last reason why I think she is reliable is because if she had something to do she would just stay home and babysit instead of doing the thing she wants to do. I wish everyone was a little bit like her.

Lastly, I am rocking to tell you about the fairness she shares. She shares equally every chance she gets. She tries her hardest to give fair shares. She is also fair because she makes sure that she doesn't stay on one of our sides but she is on both of our sides equally to make us feel good. The last reason why I think she is fair is because she pays attention to everybody equally so everyone feels special. I wish it was as easy as it sounds!

This person is incredibly awesome. I think that if I didn't pick Molly this writing piece would be the worst one ever. If Molly didn't show integrity, I don't know where I would be right now. I think of Molly like a hero.

Madalyn Adams

Third Place, Grade 3

Do you have someone who is trustworthy, fair, and shows integrity? Well I do and this person is my loving mom. She does all these things for her students, my brother, my sister, me, and many more people. Keep reading and I'll tell you more about her.

First, I'll tell you about honesty. I think honesty is about being truthful to everyone whether it's good or bad news. My mom is honest to me about everything. She is also honest to my siblings. Once my sister wanted to go shopping with us, but my mom told her we were shopping for her birthday gift so she wasn't able to go with us. My sister kept begging for her birthday gift until we finally gave it to her. Also, if a student gets a bad grade she will tell them about it and then offer to help them get a better grade next time.

Next, I'll tell you about fairness. Fairness means to me that you give people a chance, share and be fair. My mom gives students a chance to shine. She gives them quizzes and tests to help their grade. She is fair to me by not treating me any different even though I'm the oldest of three kids. She is fair when it comes to spending money. We all get the same limit to spend. I'll tell you more about her, just keep reading.

Finally I'll tell you about trustworthiness. To me trustworthy means to be a person that people can count on to make the right decision. My siblings and I can trust mom to take care of us and make sure we're healthy. My mom's students can trust her to give them the grade they deserve. At home, in school, or anywhere she shows she is trustworthy.

I hope someday I can be as honest, as fair and as trustworthy as my mom. My mom has taught me that integrity is very important. I think I have an awesome mom!

Madison Keister

First Place, Grade 4

First, when I think of integrity I think of my mom, Grace Class-Peters, and how she shows integrity every day.

To begin with, there are many ways that my mom shows integrity. One way is with her patients at the hospital. She always lets things go when her patients are impolite or ignorant. She is always outstanding to them and kind. She never picks favorites at work or at home. Those are a few ways she demonstrates integrity.

Another way that my mom shows integrity is by always being truthful, honest, and kind. One time my mom was driving and it was raining cats and dog. Brum, brum, brum was the sound of the rain coming down. My mom saw a girl walking and her house was two miles away so she gave her a ride. There you go—another way my mom is filled with integrity.

In addition to all these integrity-filled facts there are still plenty more. One time my two sisters got into a huge fight and to find out which was right they came to my mom. She listened to both sides and didn't pick a favorite. She does the same thing when my brothers argue.

Furthermore, everyone knows that my mother is filled with integrity. She is like the goddess Athena. My mom is the best mom ever because she has all these qualities. Does your mom have these qualities?

George Class-Peters

Second Place, Grade 4

Do you have someone in your life that is honest, fair, and trustworthy? Well I do and it's my mom! My mom and I are best friends.

First, I think honesty is when someone is always telling the truth and never lying. My mom is always telling me the truth in bad and good situations. When I have a bad day at school, I tell her everything. She does the same with me. My mom always shares her thoughts with me. She has never lied to me.

Next, fairness is when someone in your life lets you do things and have opportunities. My mom always lets me try again if I do something wrong. If I mess up on my homework, she always says try again. That's one of the things that I love about my mom. She also lets me have

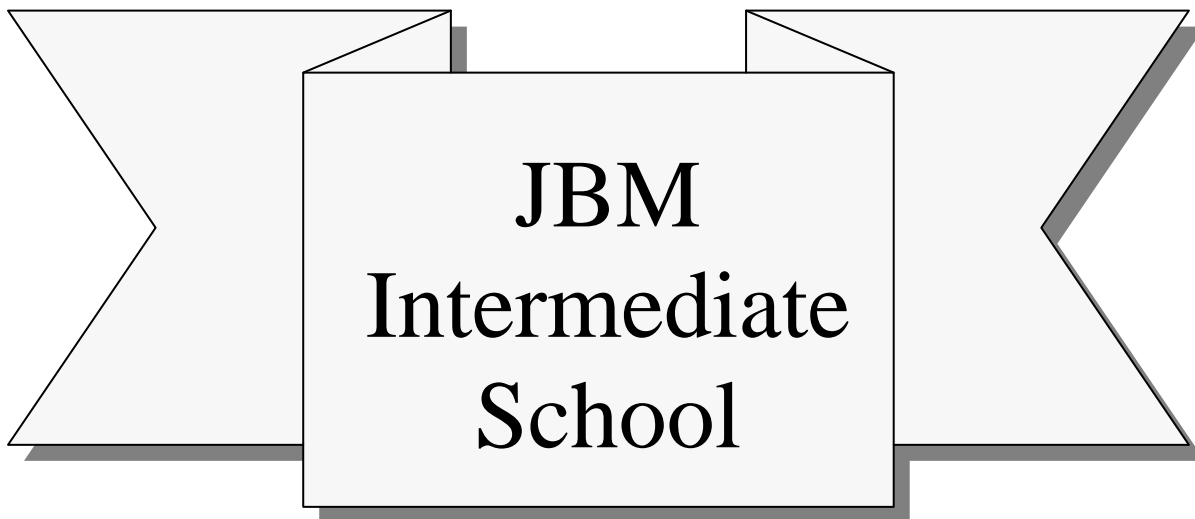
opportunities the same way she gets opportunities. My mom is number one when it comes to fairness!

Then, I'm going to tell you what I think the word trustworthy means. It means when you can depend on someone for anything. My mom is very trustworthy. I can depend on her to do anything for me or someone else. She would never tell my secrets or anything else I told her. That's how my mom shows she is trustworthy.

Finally, my mom is an overall great person. You can always trust her to be honest, fair, and trustworthy. I try to be like her every day. My mom definitely shows integrity.

Savannah Poorman

Third Place, Grade 4



**JBM
Intermediate
School**

Grades 5 and 6

“Ok. It’s your turn now mom-mom,” I said. “I didn’t realize you had taken your turn. I think I will move . . . here, she replied. These are words being spoken during a game of Checkers with my mom-mom when I was eight or nine. My mom-mom always showed integrity. She was always polite, reliable and honest. She is my definition of integrity. Mom-mom always told me I could talk to her about anything I wanted and she would never tell anybody. Most importantly to me, she never broke a promise she said she didn’t intend to keep.

My mom-mom was among the most honest and reliable people I have ever met. She was always there to talk to. Once she told me that her ears could be my journals; I could tell her anything in the world and she would never repeat it. I always appreciated her loyalty.

Even though she wasn’t all that good at it, her favorite game was Checkers. She was always polite but you could really see it in her when you played her favorite game with her. After I took my turn in a game, I was in a spot where she could have jumped me, gotten a king, and won the game. But instead, she simply moved the other way, and I stayed in the game for just a while longer. I asked her why she didn’t move the other way, and she said, “Well that would have ended the game and that would mean less fun, wouldn’t it?” As she said those words, the smile that was always on her face seemed to grow even bigger. I was especially happy because I had to stay home from a field trip this day. It was a short game but it made my day better and that was something she was always good at—making people happy.

Last, but definitely not least, mom-mom always made sure that a promise made was a promise kept. She would do anything and everything in her power to keep one. Once she told me she would take me to the store to spend money I got from losing my first tooth. She told me she had to work the day we were supposed to go, but honestly I forgot! I wasn’t upset but I could tell she was. I ended up going to work with her for a while at the bank. When her shift was over, we went to the store; so in the long run we were all happy.

We can all see how much my mom-mom liked to show integrity. In my opinion, the biggest characteristic of integrity for her was her politeness. There are many other ways mom-mom showed integrity but I think politeness stands out the most. She made everyone’s day a little brighter every day, and people always enjoyed being with and around her.

Breanna Mullikin

First Place, Grade 5

Hi, I’m Mason and I’m writing about my friend Max. I’ve chosen Max because I think Max shows a lot of integrity. Integrity to me is making a choice to be kind, honest, trustworthy and sincere. I think Max has these traits.

One of the things I think helps define integrity is being kind. These are some of the kind things Max does. He’s always nice and doesn’t use bad language. He sticks up for his fellow classmates and is always fair. When it comes to playing games he likes to organize the teams so

everyone gets on a team and there are always enough players. Max likes to use the expression, “No man gets left behind.”

Max is trustworthy. I have known Max for five years, and he would never betray his friends. You can trust him and tell him secrets and know that your secrets are safe. If you need someone to tell the truth or “how it is,” go to Max. Max has a way with words.

Max is always trying to help wherever he can. For example, if Max sees that you’re in trouble and need help, he’ll come over and help you. Outside, he will help you if you are hurt. I have seen Max carry a boy who was hurt to a teacher for help. This child actually broke both his legs and had to go to the hospital.

Integrity is a choice. You can choose to have it or you can choose not to, but the choice is yours. Max has chosen to have integrity as I have shown in my examples. Max is a good friend and I think he will get far in life, and I think other people can too, if they show integrity.

Mason Williams

Second Place, Grade 5

It was hard to pick who I was going to write about, but I finally decided to pick my Grandma Repke. I decided to write about this person because she has more integrity than any other person I know. Integrity means that you are honest, trustworthy, a good person, and fair. She has taught and shown me those qualities since I was a baby. As you read on you will agree with me that my grandmother shows integrity.

You would not believe how honest my grandmother is. Once when my mom was five years old she took a piece of bubble gum from Graham’s Market. My grandmother made my mom march back into the store to admit to the owner that she took it. She then made my mother give back the piece of bubble gum. My mom said she cried and never took anything again. Another time she showed integrity was when she received ten dollars too much change from her groceries. When she realized this, she went back into the store and informed the cashier. These are prime examples of how my grandmother shows integrity.

The next reason I picked my grandmother for this integrity piece is because she is very trustworthy. My grandmother taught school for thirty-three years. She always was very professional about her students’ grades and personal concerns. She had to be very trustworthy to be that professional while teaching all those kids. She is always caring; a way she showed this was when my mother had to work in her own classroom, grandmother went to all my open houses for school. My grandmother is very trustworthy, caring, and professional.

The third way she shows integrity is by being fair. My grandmother is fair because when we were little, my sisters and I used to fight over who got to ride shotgun in the car. She would make us take turns sitting up front. Another time she made us take turns was when she would give us back rubs. Her rule was: she would give us one, and we had to give her one in return.

When she comes for the holidays and birthday parties she spends the same amount on gifts. This is why I think my grandmother is always fair.

One more reason I picked my grandmother is because she is a good person. She is such a good person because she would help me with my homework whenever I needed help. When my grandmother comes for dinner, she seems to have ants in her pants. She is constantly asking if she can do something. She always helps my mom with cooking and cleaning. This makes me happy because I don't have to do dishes. That's how my grandmother is a good person.

My grandmother shows integrity in many ways. She has great qualities that she shows which include honesty, fairness, she is trustworthy, and she is a good person. This is how my grandmother shows integrity and it is why I love her so much.

Dylan Wilson

Third Place, Grade 5

Integrity—it means upright, fair, and good. Few people of the world today can stand up and say they have it. I only know a couple of people who have this characteristic and one of them is Mr. Prillaman. He is our principal at JBM. Every time someone gets in a fight, he always asks what happened so he can be fair. He is also upright with his actions and very kind and good.

First, I think Mr. Prillaman shows integrity by being upright. Since he is the principal at our school, he has to set an example for the students. I have never seen him lie or act unkindly before. He may seem mean to some students, but he is just doing his job. After all, if you break the rules you must be punished.

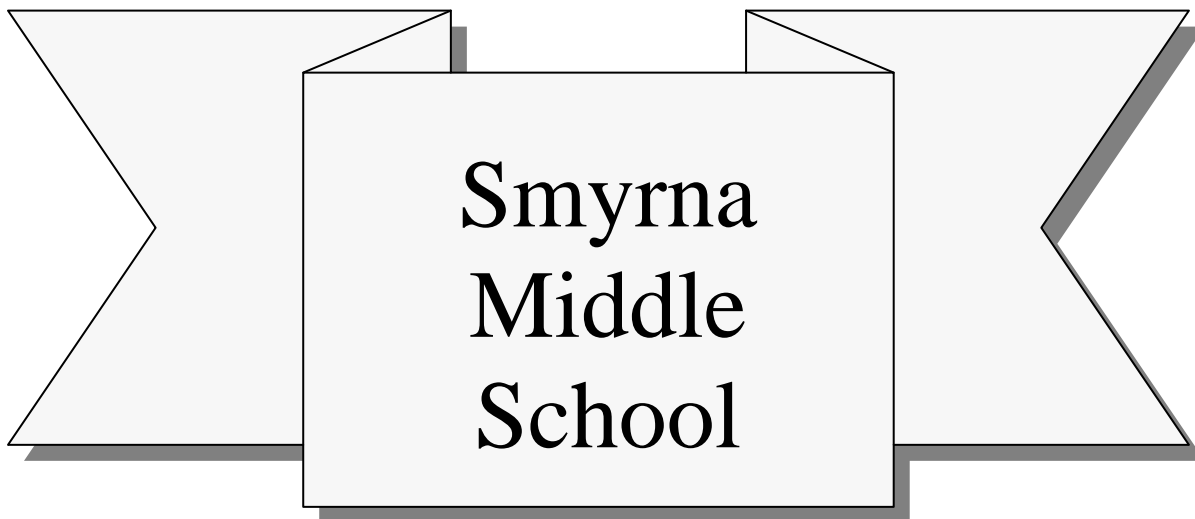
Second, I think Mr. Prillaman shows integrity by being fair. As I said before, he always looks at the situation and then decides the consequences. For example, if two people got in a fight and he overheard them, he would come over and ask why they were fighting. If the first person says it was the other person's fault, he would ask him what the second person did. Once the first person is done telling his side of the story, Mr. Prillaman would ask for the second person's view. Then he would decide what to do next.

Third, I think Mr. Prillaman shows integrity by being kind and good. Just a couple of weeks ago, an incident happened on the playground. Mr. Prillaman came into our classroom and talked about it. Then he went to the people who started the problem and talked to them. In my eyes, he was kind and good by treating the incident with importance.

When it is all said and done, Mr. Prillaman is a man with lots of integrity. He treats people with kindness, situations with fairness and his life with uprightness. He is a very great man, and I wish there were more people like him. I'm proud to go to his school. I am proud to be a student at John Basset Moore.

William Walker

Third Place, Grade 6



Smyrna
Middle
School

Grades 7 and 8

Hershey's Chocolate—everyone's an aficionado of it and knows it's delectable, mouth-watering essence. However, only a select few know what it took to perfect it. Chocolate innovator Milton Hershey was all about firsts; the society he resided in wasn't. Throughout his 88 years of failures and successes, adversity was no stranger to Hershey. As a man of integrity, however, he refused to let his dream evaporate.

The well-known quote “opportunity comes knocking on the door” is not necessarily accurate. Milton had many opportunities to become a confectionary pioneer, but the opportunities did not exactly come knocking on the door. His first chance to do so, following his four-year apprenticeship as an adolescent, was his own candy business in Philadelphia. Despite putting forth all of his efforts for six years, the operation failed. Remaining committed, he swiftly packed his luggage and found work in Denver with a confectioner who educated him in the art of producing caramels with fresh milk. Similar to his last endeavor, this operation was unsuccessful. Persevering and putting forth both effort and faith in his product, he tried his luck in New York, but the result was the same as his previous attempts. Naturally, acquaintances of Hershey tried to persuade him that another attempt would be useless and too costly to pursue. Following his heart, he would go on to show integrity by not allowing friends and family to dissuade him from his goals. Finally, he became successful with his Lancaster Caramel Company. Employing 1,400 quickly transformed him into one of the region's leading citizens. At this point, he was financially stable for life, but instead of “resting on his laurels” he wanted to continue to outdo himself in producing fine confections. Thus he began to coat his caramels with a layer of milk chocolate and soon noticed the growing demand for chocolate that currently was only a luxury for the Swiss. For years, he worked diligently to perfect a recipe for affordable yet delicious milk chocolate. Wanting to expand even further, he considered selling his current business but was once again told it would prove to be counterproductive and impractical. Not being discouraged by friends and family, he contravened and went against society to show integrity by once again following his ideas to construct what was the world's largest chocolate factory.

While the majority of people can only envision becoming wealthy to purchase items they desire and lavishly display them, wealth was a reality for Mr. Hershey. Rather than display his wealth however, he silently gave his fortune to those stricken with poverty and to the Hershey Industrial School (now recognized as the Milton Hershey School), the world's largest non-profit private school for juveniles in need. Without publicizing what he had accomplished, he started the mission of the school to help and educate children, pay for college tuition, and provide free medical care. To this day, Hershey Corporation proudly supports the mission of its founder

In today's economy, most employers only provide their employees with a salary and possibly insurance. Not being the average man, Milton Hershey wanted an above average corporation and contented employees. Displaying integrity, he believed (along with more forward-thinking industrialists of the time) that workers who were treated kindly and lived in a modest and pleasurable environment would be more efficient personnel. He envisioned supplying his workforce with fastidious brick housing (with well-manicured lawns), churches, recreational facilities, parks and transportation. Declaring he wanted to avoid the faceless community of rows and rows of townhouses, he proceeded to build the pleasant community that is now known as Hershey, Pennsylvania.

When our chocolate creator was laid to rest in 1945, his legacy wasn't. His many endeavors including the Milton Hershey School continue to flourish. In his numerous attempts to succeed, he never lost the one trait that has evaporated in modern-day times. I dedicate this piece to Milton Snavely Hershey—a man of integrity.

Matthew Comollo

First Place, Grade 7

As he drove down Sunset Boulevard, butterflies flitted in his stomach. He was about to present his baby (metaphorically speaking) Star Wars to 20th Century Fox. As the third and hopefully final company, they had the power to make his dreams come true. With their help he could make his long-cherished space opera successful. Of course, there would be some production roadblocks, but that is what would make Star Wars such an accomplishment, and eventually the fourth-highest grossing movie of all time. This man was George Lucas and this is his legacy. George Lucas is the person I know of who shows the most integrity because he faces adversity, doesn't lie, and is steadfast.

During the strenuous production of Star Wars, Mr. Lucas was faced with many struggles. In 1978, prior to the release of "Star Wars IV: A New Hope," George was informed that he would have one week more to complete his movie or it would be shut down. This was enough to make him jump out of his skin. His movie that he and many others had put their time, money, and physical well-being into for months could be abandoned on a whim. He didn't let this stop him. Lucas rallied his team together and finished shooting in that short amount of time, despite being two weeks behind schedule. To me, this epitomizes facing adversity. Even when the odds were against him and his dreams were about to be smashed with a corporate sledgehammer, George Lucas faced it and pushed on through to success.

Amidst the turbulence of his movie career, George Lucas has managed to keep a firm grasp on honesty. Although it has been confused with bluntness, Mr. Lucas has always strived to tell the truth. For instance, Carrie Fisher said, "If you were doing something George didn't like, he would tell you." He didn't sugarcoat the truth, or beat around the bush. George Lucas is direct and honest.

Throughout the process of presenting his screenplay to various production companies, Lucas was very cautious. He wasn't going to hand his hopes and dreams to just anyone. George Lucas is steadfast. For example, when shooting Star Wars he had a conflict with a lighting director. You see, Lucas was used to making lower budget movies where he had to perform tasks, such as lighting adjustments, that were slightly below most directors. I say all of this to say that George wanted to make an adjustment and was told that it wasn't his job anymore. In the end, George got his way; because, well, he was the director. I think this really goes to show that even when people are against you, you can stand fast and get your way in the end.

Without people of integrity in the world I don't know what we would do. We would go through our lives without decent role models, or help from any other person. I'm personally glad there are people of integrity because without them the population of the world would be jaded and skeptical.

Claire Cassel

Second Place, Grade 7

As Martin Luther King, Jr. closed his speech, he knew this was a major push toward the end of segregation. He stood firm all throughout his journey for his cause. He stood against the majority who wanted things to stay the same. He believed in his moral code of equal rights no matter race, religion or otherwise. Martin Luther King, Jr. is my choice for my integrity essay for his steadfast spirit, his stand against the majority for what's right, and his high moral code.

King always believed what he was doing was right and it was, as all came to find out. He never doubted what he was doing, no matter the adversity. He was threatened, insulted, and told how wrong he was on a daily basis. Through all that, he remained committed and resolute. Once after even having his plane threatened to be bombed on his way to Memphis, he still got on that plane and made it there safely to make his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. His dedicated spirit led him through everything he fought for, he was unwavering in what he believed was right. How many other people could do the same?

The majority is a powerful thing. The majority of congress can pass a new law and the majority of the people decides the next president; but is it always right? The overwhelming majority opposed King's ideas, sometimes even acting out violently against them. Many of King's supporters marched on March 7—that became known as "Bloody Sunday." When the police's uncalled for brutality became widely shown, it enraged many. If even the police would do something like that, there was definitely a huge opposition. There was even an entire cult, the Klu Klux Klan (KKK), of white supremacists who were against racial equality and showed it in extremely violent ways. King always kept fighting for what was right and in the end the majority was with him.

King always believed he was doing God's work, fighting for equality for all. The best part was he did it in his famous non-violent way. One of his biggest acts was the Montgomery Bus Boycott which he began after Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving her seat to a man just because he was white. King demonstrated his non-violent ways by encouraging his supporters to not ride the buses. He stood by that moral code all the way until his assassination. His morals were right and, because of that, he changed the nation.

This man's integrity has changed our entire nation. He believed in equality for all people no matter what they looked like on the outside. Though he was killed before his work came to fruition, the final outcome proved his work wasn't in vain. All people who have made a good change in our country have had a good set of firm beliefs in what they were fighting for. But

most importantly morals, a high sense of integrity, and a firm belief in what they stood for. Most importantly, a good sense of integrity can change your life.

J. Raymond Hennen

Third Place, Grade 7

It's hard to find someone who shows integrity; it's hard because they aren't common. People who never do anything less than their best and people who are genuinely good inside and out are rare. I pondered long and hard to find someone who I think shows integrity and uses it every day. Only one person came to my mind and that's my violin teacher, Mrs. Xiong. Mrs. Xiong shows integrity in almost every way by doing the right thing when no one is looking, never taking the easy way out, and being sincere no matter what.

My teacher, my leader, and the person I look up to as my model, Mrs. Xiong is steadfast and unwavering. To me, she's a good model to look up to. She doesn't have to show up on time to every lesson or have every lesson planned out. No one would know and no one would care. But, she does it anyway. Every time I show up to my violin lesson, she knows what she wants to do in that lesson. Mrs. Xiong knows the music, scales, and shifting exercises inside out and can play them in a heartbeat if she needs to. Yet that's not part of the requirements. If she wanted to, she could figure out the music in the lesson and stumble through it, but that wouldn't be showing integrity. I've seen many different teachers who do not do the same things Mrs. Xiong does. They don't know what they want to do in a lesson, they stumble through the music, and, well, they don't show integrity like Mrs. Xiong does. She doesn't just take the easy way out; she works hard and is prepared when it comes to my music studies.

Every week my teacher, Mrs. Xiong, faces an onslaught of new challenges. From trouble with vibrato to shifting to double stops. She never gives up, she never just tells a student to stop, and she never says that their playing stinks and they should go away and drop violin altogether. Not taking the easy way out, not just giving up on them, she tries her best and pushes those kids, She works hard even though she doesn't need to, and even though she knows it won't benefit her, just me and her students. That's what integrity is and that's just one way Mrs. Xiong shows it.

Sometimes students can't always make their lessons. Sometimes they call in thirty minutes before the lesson and cancel without any consideration of Mrs. Xiong's schedule. She doesn't become openly annoyed with them. At the Wilmington Music School (now The Music School of Delaware) the policy is that teachers who cancel a lesson can make it up sometime at the end of the semester. Students, though, do not have the ability to cancel a lesson. They can cancel, but the teacher does not have to make up that lesson. When a student of hers cancels, she takes her own time to make up that lesson. I cancelled one of my lessons for a band concert and she made sure that lesson was made up—even if she had to travel to Wilmington and even if she had to take away her time to make up that lesson This is the right thing to do and Mrs. Xiong does it. She makes sure that her students make up every lesson, even if they cancelled them and, to me, that shows integrity.

It was two weeks before my recital and I wasn't the least bit prepared. I slurred my spiccato notes, sped through my triplets, and couldn't get the synchronized rhythm straight. I was a mess. Mrs. Xiong listened to the piece carefully and then helped me through it bit by bit. The time flew by. Seven o'clock, seven thirty—the required time of my lesson had already gone by. Seven thirty, eight—when I could finally play the piece fluently with no mistakes she ended the lesson. This shows that Mrs. Xiong faced the challenge of helping me with sincerity. She could have told me to pack it up and we could work on it next week, but she stuck with the commitment of being my teacher and successfully helping me with my piece. Without her integrity, I would never be at the place I am now with my violin skills.

The few people who show integrity in the world have to work harder than every other person. They have to stand up for what they believe and model their actions to people who don't show it—such as people who lie, cheat and steal, people who lack moral codes, and aren't truly sincere. People with integrity stand against that crowd; they go against what a lot of people think is “normal.” Everyone has the ability to show integrity, but just a few such as Mrs. Xiong decide to use it.

Lauren Gaston

First place, Grade 8

We live in a world filled with dishonesty and crime. There are so few souls that are truly sincere that it is akin to finding a diamond in a pit of darkness when you encounter one. I wish that I could say that I am on this list; unfortunately I cannot. I've lied, I've cheated, and I've been selfish. Luckily though, I've found a person who exemplifies the definition of “integrity.” This Cadillac of honesty is Delaware's own Eric Suter. Eric is honest and moral and I would trust him with my life. Hopefully some of his integrity can rub off on me.

Lying comes naturally to all humans. We are as deceitful as we are evolved. I suppose Eric is a variety of Sasquatch or an alien because I have never witnessed him utter a single lie. Even when a lie would save him from a massive amount of trouble, he stays the course. For example, one afternoon he was supposed to go to a movie with his girlfriend. Unfortunately the previous night was full of crazy shenanigans which resulted in Eric sleeping in and running late. Instead of making an excuse, he took his lumps and moved on. Pretty incredible, eh?

Eric Suter is an honest, moral, and trustworthy person, so much so that I would trust him with my very life. In fact, I already have. One time up in the mountains, we were rigging our hammocks at our campsite. Mine was off the ground about six feet and, because it was so high up and because he is so tall, I let Eric set up mine. If it fell I may not have died, but it would have hurt a lot. Not a very dramatic example, I know, but it is the small things that show what kind of person you are.

In a deceitful realm such as ours people like Eric are a rare commodity. We should all be honest, have integrity, and stand up for what is right! Integrity is what gives the world hope, it is what tells us that all people have the capacity to be good. This is not just some stupid essay. It is a

call to the people of our world. Will you answer the call? Will you at least make an attempt to be a more honest, trustworthy, moral, and an overall better person?

Alex Stubbolo
Second Place, Grade 8

Integrity is adherence to moral principles, honesty, wholeness, soundness, unity, and the quality of being unimpaired. Do you have someone like that in your life? Well I do and that person is Mr. Judy, my SCIP teacher. He is an awesome guy. He shows a sum of integrity. He is a mentor to many kids. Mr. Judy is honest, teaches us, and helps us become respectful and successful.

Mr. Judy is a man of his word. He doesn't lie at all. He helps us with life and the problems that we may have at home. If you have a problem you can go to him for advice. He is a very smart man. He has a clean look that will make you think twice about talking back to him. Mr. Judy is a man who is strong and husky, and he will slap the stupid out of you just with his glance.

Mr. Judy takes us under his wing in hopes of readying us the real world. He teaches us many life lessons such as the corporate ladder and how much money we can make if we continue with good grades and graduate. We have conversations that change the way we feel about school. When he tells us things we remember them because they are life-changing things. We talk about how we could be the people that find the cure for cancer if we apply ourselves. This man is a man of wisdom.

Mr. Judy has turned us into young gentlemen who are more respectful of our grades. He is setting us up for success in the real world. He is carving us a social, economic, mental, and educational path to success. How I look at myself as a student and as a man has changed greatly with his tutoring and advice. I never had a father so he kind of teaches me the things I missed about maturity and I thank him for that.

Integrity is adherence to moral principles, honesty, wholeness, soundness, unity, and the quality of being unimpaired. I have explained how Mr. Judy is the epitome of integrity. He is a great man and the person with greatest integrity in my life at this point. He is my teacher, my mentor, and the person I look up to most in this world. He is Mr. Judy—a man of his word.

Brian Furtaw
Third Place, Grade 8



Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

These days especially, you can find it harder and harder to do the right thing time after time. In a stressful world it can be easy to lash out at people or take the easy way out; but it is those people who maintain their composure, and those people who push through the turmoil to get where they need to be who have true integrity. Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest, good, or fair. Seems simple to do, but when push comes to shove you find yourself in a tough spot trying to make your way out and integrity can be put aside. Having the mindset that you can make your way out without sacrificing your integrity, and finding a way out with honesty and good will in mind is what separates the good people from the good people with integrity. When I think about someone I know who exudes integrity, my dad comes to mind.

All my life my dad has never taken from someone else, he has worked for the sole purpose of caring for his family, and he has lived as an honest and good person who puts others first—always. There are specific incidents I think about when I have to describe my dad. Incidents that I believe show who he truly is and why he really should be someone described as having integrity. Most involve day-do-day events, but then there are the big ones like when my grandmother had no place to go.

My grandmother was 82 when she called my dad from the hospital. She had been living with my uncle who needed as much care as she did, so she wasn't exactly under great supervision. My older sister had just gone to college two days before the phone call, loans had been taken out, and everything was under control financially. It wasn't until my grandmother was with us for about four days that we realized just how long-term this visit was going to be. My grandmother was in serious need of, literally, 24/7 care; and my dad was the only one who could provide it. Soon the living room was converted into a totally handicapped accessible bedroom and bathroom, and a new addition came next.

My dad had to stop working to stay home all day with her, three doctor visits a week led to a strict diet, and my dad's new job was a stay-at-home nurse. After seven months my grandmother's diabetes was to the point where she no longer needed insulin shots because my dad controlled her diet so much that her blood sugar was fine. Between student loans and doctor bills, the finances went a little off course, but we didn't truly suffer for my dad wasn't going to put my grandmother out with no one to take care of her. That's where I really saw his integrity. He'll never let anyone go without everything they need.

Later my grandmother moved out to go live with my aunt and uncle; however, that is not the point. The point is there were several times when my dad could have just sent my grandmother on her way, asked for money, or complained about how things weren't going his way; but he didn't. That makes him different from the others who would've folded under the pressure; that's what gives him that quality of integrity. There are plenty of other stories like this but I think this specific one sums things up quite nicely. Like I said, integrity is defined as being honest, good, and fair; but it is actually putting others first, never giving up because something is too hard, and, especially, actually sticking to your word and doing what you say and what you know is the right thing.

James Linden

Second Place, Grade 11

Integrity is the quality of being honest, fair, and good. People who have integrity are also very trustworthy. I admire all people who have the qualities of integrity. The person who I am choosing to write about is my basketball coach, Coach Starkey. In my eyes he has all the great qualities of integrity.

Coach Starkey has been the best coach I have ever had. One of the biggest reasons for me saying that is due to his honesty with all of his players. He is going to tell you how it is even though you don't like it or you think he is being too tough on you. By him doing these things to me, I have learned how to take and deal with criticism and that has been a big change in my life over the past couple of years.

I love him as a coach because he is a very fair person. He gives every player on the team a chance to play and prove that he can play and make a difference on the court. Also he rewards some of the harder-working players in practice with additional playing time when time is available. That is the second quality of integrity that I think makes him a very fair person and coach.

The last quality of integrity that he does a great job of showing is just being a good person and a good coach. He is very nice and very respectful to all of his players, and that to me is the best quality of integrity that he shows or that any other person could have. I like and respect him just as much as a person as I do a coach. He has changed my life in so many different ways that I can't even begin to describe. That's why I think he shows the most integrity out of all the people I know.

The three biggest qualities of showing integrity are being honest, fair, and good. Coach Starkey shows all three of these qualities, and has had the biggest influence on my life since the day that I moved to Smyrna and he started being my coach. These are all great reasons why I choose him to be the perfect candidate to write about on the topic of integrity.

Matthew Storck

Second Place, Grade 12

I have met a lot of people in my life from all over the country. Many of them have been great people but not one of them has exhibited the characteristics of integrity more than my own mother. She is more sincere and fair than anyone else I know. She has sacrificed so much for my brother and me. I do not know anyone else—not a teacher, coach or parent of a friend—who has done so much or given so much to their children. My mom, as well as my father, has made sure that all my life my brother and I have had equal opportunities and responsibilities.

My mom has always taught me to never be vulgar or rude which is not often taught by parents anymore. She has taught me to be respectful and courteous, and that arguing does not get someone anywhere fast. Because she has always been respectful to me, I have learned that the proper thing to do is to treat people how they want to be treated. Since my mom and I have

always had an unspoken pact (so to speak), I have learned that I can open up to her and she will not judge me. From this I have learned not to judge other people because judging one's character before someone knows them is one of the most unfair things a person can do.

My mother is a very democratic woman, and she believes that everyone should have a fair chance at achieving their dreams. It has always seemed as though my mom is fairer than most other parents I have encountered. I have more freedom than most of my friends, but, of course, those freedoms have very reasonable limits. She used to try very hard to even out the chores between my brother and me but he is very lazy. More often than not, I end up doing a majority of them—which is fine. Since my mom has taught me to be responsible, I quickly learned that I would have to be responsible enough for both my brother and myself. Also, she always does her best to make the number of presents under the Christmas tree equal or the amount of money spent on each of us equal so there is never a dispute over who got more gifts. She encourages me to do the best I can so that my future will present more opportunities, and I will have a great chance to be successful.

She has also taught me to always be honest. Lying in my household is unacceptable and resolved with a pretty harsh punishment (at least what I think of as a harsh punishment). I got caught lying one time over my whereabouts and my mom lectured me to no end and her trust in me was lost. After I lost her trust, I felt horrible and vowed that I would never do such a stupid thing again—just another example of her passing on her integrity to me.

Since I started really growing up, I have been able to confide in my mom without expecting to be judged or ridiculed. She is always honest and fair, and always does the right thing. I am so glad that she is the one who raised me because I feel as though anyone else would not have taught me better values. She excelled at passing down her integrity to me and I can never do enough to repay her for such an honor

Amy Short
Third Place, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTION

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Robin Logue	Kindergarten
Raegan Logue	Kindergarten
Danielle Conn	Kindergarten
Haley McDowell	Kindergarten
Isaac Tyre	Kindergarten

Teia Hudson	Grade 1
Lily Wynne	Grade 1
Robbie Gott	Grade 1
Jarod McDonald	Grade 1
Andrew Garlic	Grade 1

Marcus Powell	Grade 2
Neveah Johnson	Grade 2
Carter Dillon	Grade 2
Asianna Blue	Grade 2
Spencer Price	Grade 2

Dakota Bergeron	Grade 3
Hannah Jones	Grade 3
Tanner Wynne	Grade 3
Deborah McNatt	Grade 3
Wesley Treadwell	Grade 3

Brittany Rosello	Grade 4
Gary Cimaglia	Grade 4
Justin Johnson	Grade 4
Akirah Bussey	Grade 4

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nora Charles	Kindergarten
Joyce Archer	Kindergarten
Anthony Lewis	Kindergarten
Cheyenne Donaghue	Kindergarten
Madison Simpson	Kindergarten

Jordyn Reed	Grade 1
Vanni Johnson	Grade 1
Natalie Lara	Grade 1
Sara Reed	Grade 1
Grace Ezell	Grade 1

Salin Oliver	Grade 2
Dedrick Grigger	Grade 2
Autumn Legar	Grade 2
Macie Blackson	Grade 2
Natalya Byrd	Grade 2

Kenley Cook	Grade 3
Charkeria Moore	Grade 3
Aniah Patterson	Grade 3
Desirea Penix	Grade 3
Payton McCready	Grade 3

Kyle Wentling	Grade 4
Jourdyn Scott	Grade 4
Michelle Carney	Grade 4
Cheyenne Tunnell	Grade 4
Justina Bottomley	Grade 4

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Veronica Jones	Kindergarten
Alexis Bento	Kindergarten
Kelly Barr	Kindergarten
Madison Steele	Kindergarten
Samuel Thomas	Kindergarten

Bella Tiberi	Grade 1
Gianna Hannum	Grade 1
Deanna Sinclair	Grade 1
Reese Tusio	Grade 1
Jordan Carter	Grade 1

Dylan Bonilla	Grade 2
Vincente Pasquale	Grade 2
William Shomper	Grade 2
Matthew Knight	Grade 2
Donald McAlpine	Grade 2

Kevin Nyandemo	Grade 3
Tim Henderson	Grade 3
Liam Keen	Grade 3
Nyheir Green	Grade 3
Gracie McDowell	Grade 3

Sarah Workman	Grade 4
Allison Embert	Grade 4
Samuel Mace	Grade 4
Bailey Davis	Grade 4
Danielle Slaughter	Grade 4

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jaden Bain	Kindergarten	Jose Guitaerrz	Grade 2
Chase Correll	Kindergarten	Gabrielle Lane	Grade 2
Grant Robinson	Kindergarten	Kevin Keister	Grade 2
Johanna Duperoy	Kindergarten	Yaren Usul	Grade 2
Madison Pierce	Kindergarten	Abby Walters	Grade 2
Aliya Helm	Grade 1	Sebastian Reyes	Grade 3
Sydney Harrison	Grade 1	Nicholas Taylor	Grade 3
Austin Swift	Grade 1	Jazlee Rojas	Grade 3
Laney Dirks	Grade 1	Stephan Wright	Grade 3
Jonah Smith	Grade 1	Robby Carey	Grade 3
	Tyler Scott		Grade 4
	Brendan Davis		Grade 4
	Sebastian Bier		Grade 4
	Tyler Pilkinton		Grade 4
	Jimmy Yeager		Grade 4

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Connor Dulin	Grade 5
Elana Montejo	Grade 5
Sara Field	Grade 5
John Baker, III	Grade 5
Shane Geiger	Grade 5
Victoria Thomas	Grade 6
Bryana Friel	Grade 6
Evan Gallaher	Grade 6
Carissa Dicarlantonio	Grade 6
Zoe Carson	Grade 6

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nicole Simpson	Grade 7
Jenna Scuse	Grade 7
Sierra Watkins	Grade 7
Karen Cimaglia	Grade 7
Christian Dorsey	Grade 7
Jordan Yeomans	Grade 8
Taylor Dixon	Grade 8
Casey McCormick	Grade 8
Breanna Wharton	Grade 8
Peter Buoncristiano	Grade 8

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Colin Hovel	Grade 9	Jennifer Harris	Grade 11
Ariana Jordan	Grade 9	Nick Motyl	Grade 11
Brittany Wilson	Grade 9	Josh Joanis	Grade 11
Alexa Messick	Grade 9	Matt Fillman	Grade 11
Jon Richardson	Grade 9	Sean Pyle	Grade 11
Chris Berg	Grade 10	Mary Regina Dimeo	Grade 12
Erin Gallaher	Grade 10	Lauren Nickerson	Grade 12
		Shiva Davis	Grade 12
		Dayseann McNeal	Grade 12