

Student Name: Emely Rebolledo

School: Annie R. Mitchell Elementary School,

Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Megan Madsen

Emely is always willing to go out of her way to help other students. She goes out of her way to assist her classmate that has special needs without being asked. She is always the first one to help a student when they are struggling to understand class lessons. She helps her group members stay on task. Emely is the first one to say good morning to her classmates and welcome anyone who visits our classroom.



Student Name: Charlotte Tietjen **School:** Blue Oak Academy, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Mckenzi Brazil

I teach my students about the Learning Pyramid that states we learn 90% by teaching others. Charlotte Tietjen I would say, LIVES by this! She has taken it to heart and offers her heart to help her peers. Charlotte is a student who finishes assignments in a timely manner, not to go to free time, or read, or do the next thing, but rather do the RIGHT thing (in her mind). Charlotte finishes and can be found up out of her seat leaning in near a peer offering help and guidance to others. I often am asked, "Who can I help next, Mrs. Brazil? Who's next?!" If we have a sub, she is the first one to stand up and offer help with the unknown! She does not even hesitate! Her hand pops up so fast, "I can!" Charlotte does not even think about it, it is in her heart and comes naturally to help others! Her generous heart stands out, and for a girl her age, this is rare and far and few. I am thankful for the hand Charlotte lends to me, her peers, and other adults!



Student Name: Jessica Guzmán

School: Central Valley Christian School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Edith Guzman

I would love to nominate my daughter, Jessica, for being responsible and a good citizen at school and in the community. She is thriving in school, has excellent grades, and stays on top of her homework. I am honored to be her mother and to see her growth each school year.

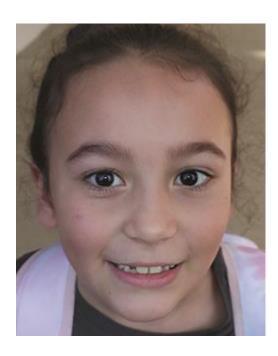


Student Name: Xavier Valera-Salcido **School:** Compass Program, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Alyssa Chavez

Xavier is a leader in the classroom and a perfect model of being a caring student. Every day Xavier comes to school with a positive attitude. He always puts others' happiness before his own. When students are upset, he immediately comforts them. He shows empathy to all student's in our program. He will always ask how to make another student happy. He is always asking how he can help the staff. In addition, he always offered to share with his peers.



Student Name: Emma Kusserow

School: Conyer Elementary School Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Lyndsay Gentert

Emma comes into the classroom every day with academic focus and she is ready to get to work. She is very sensitive and seeks out other students who need to be cheered up. She strives to set the example for her class both academically and through her behavior. Emma invites kiddos to sit with her and she offers them one of the most valuable things; her friendship. When other students are having a rough day, Emma consoles them but also offers advice for them to turn their day around. Emma can be found anywhere on campus doing what she is supposed to do whether an adult is watching or not. She also tries to assist her HEART teachers after school with the management of her classmates. Emma is a perfect example of a kiddo that shows her PAWS every day!



Student Name: Jaymien Colon

School: Cottonwood Creek Elementary School,

Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Kristina Cortez, Mariah Young, Lori Harding, Richard Dockery, Sonya Joyner

I have been babysitting Jaymien since he was in 3rd grade. He is the most caring, helpful and generous young man I know. He has a bright future and this makes him the perfect candidate to be acknowledged for character counts.

Jaymien Colon is a great leader who exemplifies Trustworthiness. As a loyal friend, he will always stand up for what is right and will always be honest with you. Jaymien is someone you can always count on because he keeps promises, he is reliable, and has the courage to speak up and out. His words and actions show what an honest person he is and he would never deceive you. His character is truly astounding and he is incredibly deserving of this award.

Jaymien is a very caring and responsible young man. He ALWAYS opens doors for others and has the best manners I have ever seen in a young man his age. His mother contracted Covid-19 last year when the school was on zoom learning. He continued to attend his zoom classes and do all of his homework, at the same time, bringing things to his Mom's room door that she needed. (ie. food, drinks, meds, etc.) It is only him and his Mom in the home. During the school shut down and zoom learning, Jaymien excelled in school and made the honor roll. He enrolled himself with Student Council and made all of the Birthday videos for the school student's birthdays. He loves making people happy. Jaymien mows the lawn at the home and he and his Mom do all of the other yard work together. He never complains about doing chores and says, "I need to help my Mom". Jaymien has a heart of gold and spreads this kind of care and true generosity to his peers. When he comes to my home to visit, he always makes sure to clean up his toys before he leaves, without me asking, and all of my friends absolutely love him. He is such a joy to be around and anyone who encounters him adores him. His mannerism is over and beyond!

Jaymien has continued to grow in word and in deed. He shows respect for his peers and superiors. Puts others wants and needs above his own. He has made some mistakes along the way, but has displayed exemplary character and integrity when these shortcomings were brought to his attention. Jaymien will be an asset in individual or group settings.

Jaymien has grown into a model student who exhibits maturity and honesty throughout his day. Jaymien used to have a difficult time on the playground or when redirected in the classroom. However, he has now cultivated healthy relationships throughout the campus, treats everyone with respect, accepts responsibility, helps others, and is very well mannered. He is a pleasure to be around, is polite, humble, and gracious. He has grown into an admirable young man.



Student Name: Axl Rodriguez Saechao

School: Crestwood Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Alisen Moore

Axl is a student in my class for the 2020-2021 school year and he is the perfect example of responsibility. He is always on task, quick to complete his work, and is always kind to his peers. When Axl needs support, he will use the word "help" and waits patiently for an adult. When it is time to clean up, he does so without needing to be told and moves back to his seat at the table or carpet without the need for redirection. He quickly has grasped classroom routines and happily moves through his day bringing joy to everyone around him. While we have only been in school for a few short weeks, Axl's responsibility shines in the classroom. We are so very lucky to have Axl as a part of our learning community and look forward to his continued success this year!



Student Name: Caton McCorvey

School: El Diamante High School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Lakeishia Martin

I have had the chance to work with this student for the last three years as her agriculture business teacher. Caton McCorvey has been a prime example of what it means to be responsible. She is a very active student on campus serving a position in ASB and being active in FFA. Caton has a very busy schedule and always leaves an impact with her ability to get everything done even when she is forced to spread herself thin. She is resilient because even in the midst of being responsible adversity hits and she continues to be great. This Summer Caton decided to raise a lamb as a fair project. Towards the end of the Summer Caton's lamb became sick which led Caton to make a decision at the recommendations of the veterinarian. She did the responsible thing and took the veterinarian's advice, which was putting her lamb down. Caton made a tough decision quickly but it was the most ethical and responsible decision as a young adult and as an animal lover. Making a tough decision shows how responsible she is but it also shows what type of person she is.



Student Name: Princeton Dunn

School: Global Learning Charter School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Adrienne Lewright

I would like to nominate Princeton Dunn for the Kids of Character Award for being a very Caring student. Princeton has shown great kindness by taking time to make our new student feel comfortable in our class. When the new student first came to class, he noticed that she seemed sad and worried about being in a new class. Princeton took the time to speak to her and explain new things to her. When she was not sure where to walk during lunchtime, or library time he took her hand and showed her the way. With Princeton's welcoming kindness, our new student is very happy in our class.



Student Name: Vianca Dillihunt

School: Golden Oak Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Jennifer Fowler

Vianca is a sweet and energetic student who is so helpful in and out of the classroom. She truly cares about others and often volunteers to help in any way she can. Vianca is the first student I think about when a sick student needs to be walked to the nurse, if a student needs help with a Chromebook, or even if there is a new student who needs a friend. She is very self-aware, which I find to be such a unique and positive quality in a sixth- grade student. I feel very lucky to have such a sweet, kind, and caring student in our classroom this year!



Student Name: Caden Lawrance

School: Golden West High School Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Shay Williams-Hopper

Caden is respectful and polite to all adults and kids. He will greet you with a firm handshake, and looks you in the eye when he is talking, and is always willing to lend a helping hand.



Student Name: Daniela Cardenas

School: Goshen Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Sarah Van Dermyden

Daniela shows up every day with all her class materials, all work completed and a huge smile on her face. When absent, she is still logging onto our classroom page and doing the work she missed while being out of school. I can always trust her to help her classmates make good choices, to use kind words, and to have enthusiasm about learning. She has a great attitude and gets along with everybody. She is a joy to have in my class and exemplifies what a Student of Character looks like.



Student Name: Michela Pasquini

School: Green Acres Middle School, Visalia

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Jessica Malmsten

One of the sweetest things that I witnessed as a spectator was Michela giving a gift to her opponents after a volleyball game. She demonstrated true sportsmanship and grace. It was truly inspirational and uplifting to see such a sweet gesture from a student-athlete.



Student Name: Cristian Espinoza

School: Highland Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Sarah Butler

Cristian Espinoza is an upstanding citizen and student at Highland Elementary. Cristian is excellent at math and regularly helps his peers when they are stuck on a problem. Cristian offers to help others in the classroom without being asked, and shows kindness to friends who are still practicing to understand the problem. Whether he is in the classroom or on the playground, everyone knows Cristian is a friend who will always show kindness and respect. His kind and caring personality paired with his intelligence will take Cristian very far in life!



Student Name: Sophia Schiano

School: Houston Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Francisca Janeth Hernandez

Sophia Schiano has shown all of the characteristics of the Six Pillars of Character. She is a student that I can count on to do what she is supposed to be doing. She is caring to all of her classmates and is always ready to be helpful. I have seen her be kind to everyone. During our Morning Circles, we have had some tough conversations that sometimes brings strong emotions to the surface; Sophia gets up, gets a tissue for them, and gives them a hug. She is an amazing student and role model to all. I am so lucky to be her teacher!



Student Name: Cameron Martens **School:** La Joya Middle School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Kaytlyn Naylon

I am proud to nominate Cameron Martens, a 7th grader from La Joya Middle School, to be recognized for this opportunity! He is a truly remarkable student who is a constant bright spot in my day. Cameron is always willing to help others, befriend all, and support teachers in their classrooms. One of our students is facing some significant challenges, and Cameron has taken it upon himself to be the best advocate and support for his classmate. He goes out of his way every day to make sure his classmate feels safe, comfortable, and included on campus. Cameron tackles his own challenges with positivity and a joyful attitude. La Joya is a better campus when Cameron is onsite. I am lucky to have the chance to work with Cameron and be part of his academic journey as I feel like he is affecting me for the better. I strive to be a stronger educator when I have students like Cameron to work with each day.



Student Name: Angela Quintana

School: La Sierra Military Academy, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Ronni Aguilar

Angela is a great student who has worked very hard to overcome obstacles and strive for excellence in all she does. She struggled her freshman year in high school, but decided to come to La Sierra Military Academy and change things around. She did just that! Many students experience personal struggles and Angela is no different. She worked very hard to come to school despite not wanting to at times. She worked through her struggles by writing about them via poetry and speaking with trusted family and friends. Angela then decided that a low grade in English that she earned her freshman year, was not going to stay on her transcript. She took an online course to raise her grade and her GPA. This extra effort has made her A-G ready when she graduates this coming June.

Since we are a military school, there are many opportunities for jobs. Angela is an S1 Division Officer. She is trusted by our Commandant of Cadets to be in charge of his office. She makes orders for the school, manages battalion awards and oversees evaluation reports. She does all of this while keeping a 4.0 GPA.

Angela is truly a responsible student and for all that, she has accomplished, I nominate her for the Character Counts! Award for Responsibility.



Student Name: Sarah Bolous

School: Linwood Elementary School Visalia

Pillar: Respect

Nominator(s): Julie Cates

Sarah is a kind and curious student who continuously shows courtesy and respect to everyone she meets. If we were not wearing masks, I am sure she would greet you with a kind smile. Sarah is thoughtful without being boastful. She often has thought deeply about questions and answers, but does not make other students feel uncomfortable about what they know. Respect for others is demonstrated in deeds, Sarah Bolous is an amazing role model, and she shows respect in what she says and her actions.



Student Name: Addison Holguin

School: Manuel F. Hernandez Elem. School,

Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Chelsea Padilla

This student is always on task, follows the rules, and exceeds expectations! She completes all of her homework and even takes it upon herself to continue her growth with additional practice. She is an upstanding student who is an example in the classroom. She goes above and beyond in everything that she does and is sure to show her P.A.W.S behaviors.



Student Name: Lexi Velasquez

School: Mineral King Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Gloria Becerra

Lexi is such an amazing student and friend. She always looks out for her friends and is their voice when they are too shy to ask for help. During lessons and our independent practice, she helps her peers understand and complete assignments. Outside, during recess and after school she stays alongside her friends when they are feeling worried or sad. She also offers me suggestions in a respectful manner when she notices we need to adjust our routines or expectations. She is wise and caring beyond her age. We are very fortunate to have her in our classroom this year.



Student Name: Luke Connelly

School: Mountain View Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Karen Weaver

Luke takes learning seriously and makes sure to complete all assignments. He follows school rules and is an example to his peers. He models Mountain View "Pride" on a daily basis.



Student Name: Ruth Ramirez

School: Mt. Whitney High School, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Vanessa Alvarado

Ruth faced her COVID year being second in command in our household. She jumped in and helped me with her baby sister, chores, and day-to-day routines. I appreciate her responsibility to herself and her family.

Navigating working from home and caring for a two-year old going through potty training was a nightmare in itself. Ruth was there and she did it without complaining and maintained her grades.

Ruth's actions around COVID have been notable to protect her friends and family.



Student Name: Isabella Chan

School: Oak Grove Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Robert Ojeda

Isabella Chan is a remarkable young lady. She has had quite an impact on our campus sharing her love and aptitude for music. Music is her passion and she can regularly be observed walking the campus playing songs and singing. Recently, she volunteered to serve us by playing the school song live in our Friday Assemblies. She plays the song on either ukulele or guitar and it has been wonderful. It is no small thing to stand in front of the whole school and perform each Friday morning. Isabella is doing an excellent job modeling and caring for our school. She generously shares her gifts with all of us and I know our younger students are affected by her service and example.



Student Name: Hugo Montes

School: Pinkham Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Frank Ghiglia

At the beginning of the year, students were getting used to coming back to in-person instruction and acclimating to the challenges of being back in school after full-distance learning. One student, Hugo Montes, commented to his teacher on the large number of books in the class library and that they were all in a set from The Great Illustrated Classics series. His teacher asked Hugo if he had looked at any of the books. He said that he had looked at the title of one of them (The Invisible Man) and asked politely if he could see if he had an interest in the book. He was encouraged to read the summary on the back cover and let his teacher know if he would like to read it.

What happened following this interaction was incredible. Not only did Hugo read the summary of the book and he was visibly excited after reading it, but he also made it a point to share what he read with others in the class. Hugo's actions encouraged his peers to see if there were any books in the library, they would be interested in. This presented a challenge though; many of the students had struggled to make progress with their literacy skills during the last two years and had difficulty reading the summaries of the grade-level books. Without prompting, Hugo went out of his way to not only read the summaries of several books to his peers but also helped them push through their reading struggles to determine their interest in the books. Hugo's caring actions created an opportunity for all students to want to interact with each other in a meaningful way that ultimately developed a strong desire to read, even when students found it difficult. He may not realize the impact his caring for others had on his class, but his teacher did, and for that, he is being nominated for his exceptional character!



Student Name: Ramon Lopez Vargas **School:** Redwood High School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Blanca Lopez

Ramon is a helpful and caring individual. At home, Ramon helps around the house with chores when needed. He is a great big brother and takes the time to play with his little brothers who adore him. I am blessed to have Ramon.



Student Name: Makayla Malmsten **School:** Ridgeview Middle School, Visalia

Pillar: Citizenship

Nominator(s): Jessica Malmsten

Makayla has a passion for being as involved as she can in activities, clubs, and programs at school. She is civic-minded as she speaks with great enthusiasm about the math club, volleyball team, yearbook, and the different communities that each classroom is in the process of building. She has always been willing to volunteer when needed to help her teachers, coaches, and peers. That coupled with her love for all things Ridgeview and our community, she is determined to make this school year great for everyone. She is already coming up with ideas for cultivating and growing the math club and trying to make it an inclusive club for her fellow Raptors.



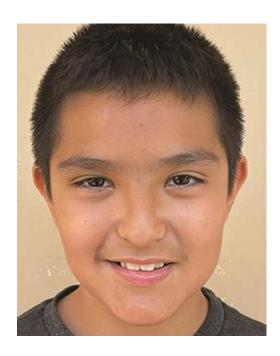
Student Name: Cathy Jaurrieta

School: Riverway Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Heather Mackey

In the short time, I have had the honor to get to know Cathy; she has exhibited such responsibility even in the midst of some personal struggles with anxiety. She is organized and knows how and when to be serious about her studies. She can be assistive with classmates and still maintain her focus completing her tasks in a timely manner. Cathy is responsible for her use of technology and can be trusted to be engaged in her lessons and working to complete her assignments showing others, what it looks like to be a responsible digital citizen. Cathy is also kind, courteous, and respectful to her classmates and me. She takes our Riverway Otter Pledge seriously and follows C.A.R.E. (Compassionate, Acts Responsibly, Respectful, and Encouraging of Others) expectations. I look forward to watching her continue to learn and grow.



Student Name: Jesse Cardona

School: Royal Oaks Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Yessica Salinas

Jesse has been helpful to any student that has needed help. Some students that have to leave the classroom and miss notes. Jesse is always ready to offer help and share his notes to catch students up. Whenever I need help passing items out, he offers to help. During recess, I have seen him stay and help collect items to put back. Jesse has shown such kindness to his classmates and staff. He never hesitates to offer help and does it with enthusiasm. He comes to school ready to learn, asks questions, and does not complain about work that needs to be completed. He is a joy to have in class and his kindness is contagious, it motivates other students to also want to be of help to their classmates.



Student Name: Leila Daly

School: Shannon Ranch Elem. School, Visalia

Pillar: Fairness

Nominator(s): Chandra Houck

Leila plays an important part in our class family. We rely on her when it comes to playing games or other activities in class where we need clarification of the rules. She does so in a polite and kind way so that nobody feels confused or put down. We are grateful for Leila in our class.



Student Name: Isaiah Barba **School:** St. Paul's School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Pattie Saenz

Isaiah Barba is a sweet boy and always greets me as he walks into the classroom. I have chosen Isaiah because he most exemplifies the character trait of responsibility. I know I can count on him to follow directions. He is a good listener and takes great pride in every assignment that he completes. His penmanship alone shows that he takes his education very seriously. Isaiah is also an athlete outside of the classroom and still manages to get his homework done every night. To me, this is a great example of what a responsible student should be. He makes me a very proud teacher.



Student Name: Clark Rollin

School: Sycamore Valley Academy, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Erika Chan

"I will do what is right because it is right." This is our Sycamore Valley Academy school honor code, and one that is not always easy to follow when there is temptation to bend the rules a bit. Sixth graders often face peer pressure to get off task in class, or perhaps gossip about other kids in order to fit in. Although, there is one student in my classroom whose moral compass points toward doing the right thing. Clark Rollin truly fits all Six Pillars of Character, yet he is being nominated for the pillar of RESPONSIBILITY- because doing what he is "supposed to do" is habitual for him. Clark is known in Room 20 as the one kid who plays fairly during recess sports, and consistently chooses to follow the game rules. His peers respect him as a talented athlete, hardworking scholar, and a trustworthy friend. I am honored to nominate Clark for this award. He deserves to be recognized for his good sportsmanship, kindness towards others, and his hard work in the classroom. Thank you for your consideration!



Student Name: Ambry Blackwell

School: University Preparatory High School,

Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Tresha Mozie

Ambry is adjusting well to being a Freshman at UPHS especially after coming from distance learning for 2 years. He is already signed up to start taking COS classes and is excited about advancing his education. He continues to work on his communication skills so he can be successful! Great job Ambry.



Student Name: Lilly Castro

School: Valley Life Charter School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Megan Jensen, Amy Fregoso

Lilly is one of the most responsible young people I have ever met. She leads by her example for those around her. She always does what she is supposed to; often going above and beyond what is asked. She is constantly trying to improve herself and does not hesitate to ask what she can do to make something better. Lilly's positive attitude shines and she is so kind and helpful to those around her. She will often answer questions and offer help to others on tasks. Lilly always does the right thing and encourages others to do so as well. She is a bright spot in the classroom, an amazing friend, and a fantastic leader.

Lilly is an exceptional student. She shows responsibility by working diligently at every task. Her work is always above and beyond what is asked of her, and she is willing to help others who might need it. She comes to class prepared, and her positive attitude is contagious. She is a ray of sunshine in our class.



Student Name: Montserrat Lopez Martinez **School:** Valley Oak Middle School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Angelina Contreras

Montserrat Lopez Martinez is an exceptional student. She has a great work ethic. She is currently helping to translate in her ELA class since we just got a student from Mexico a few weeks ago. She made sure to meet up with him during another class period to continue to help him.

She currently helps at lunch, even when she is not asked. We needed someone to monitor either the door or the water-filling station, and she just plants herself into that area to help corral everyone into our Multipurpose Room.

She is a wonderful student whose reputation precedes her. She goes above and beyond all that she needs to do. She also currently has a 3.62 GPA.



Student Name: Katelyn Hernandez

School: Veva Blunt Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Staci Day

Katelyn is a student who works hard in modeling the PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Etiquette) skills we use at Veva Blunt Elementary to promote leadership within students. Whether she is the first or last student done, she works hard to keep focused and achieve the goals of the task. By doing this, Katelyn is fostering growth within herself and setting an example of responsibility with her actions for others to witness. She asks questions when needing extra understanding, helps others around her, shares ideas, and works quietly so others can learn. No matter what I am doing in the room, I can count on Katelyn to be a helper and get her job done. Katelyn is a great example of responsibility and I am so proud of her!



Student Name: Josiah Castro

School: Visalia Technical Early College High

School, Visalia

Pillar: Caring

Nominator(s): Karen Roebuck

I have witnessed Josiah caring for fellow students many times. However, recently his friend injured his ankle. Josiah has been assisting his friend by opening doors and seeing that the friend gets to where he needs to be. In a world where we need all the kindness we can get, Josiah is going above and beyond!



Student Name: Evelyn Larios

School: Willow Glen Elementary School, Visalia

Pillar: Responsibility

Nominator(s): Ray Cartagena

Evelyn Larios, always makes sure she is doing her work correctly and goes above and beyond to understand fully. She turns work in on time, all the time; she is organized and gives her best effort. She is also very helpful with her expertise in academics. An example of how responsible she is was when she needed to be absent for a day. She went on Schoology and did the assignments for that day. She did not allow herself to fall behind. Lastly, Evelyn is also on our Student Council and brings her exceptional skills to our leadership, and campus.