

**Tulare County Office of Education  
CHARACTER COUNTS! Week 2022  
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**Student Name:** Uriel Perez

**School:** Alpaugh School, Alpaugh

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Matthew Galafate

**Statement:**

Uriel comes to class prepared to learn the content, but also takes the time to help others around him when needed. Anytime we are working in groups or individually he follows the directions and makes sure his group is focused on the task at hand. Uriel is great at following directions and being engaged in any topic we are covering in the classroom. This student is a great role model for being responsible and on task for our students.

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**Student Name:** Renata Bermejo

**School:** Cutler Elementary School, Custer

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Irma Ramirez

**Statement:**

Renata is kind to all students and staff and always has a smile for everyone. She is quick to help students in class. If a student is stuck answering a question she motions where they can find the answer or whispers to help them. When working with a group she first likes to allow classmates to lead before offering her suggestions. Renata never acts like she is better than others. She is also willing to help any staff that require help outside and inside the classroom. She is one of the first to offer help. Renata also acts to comfort a classmate when they are feeling down. I have not seen one negative expression in her face or a negative comment from her.

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**Student Name:** Aaron Gibson

**School:** Dinuba Community Based Instruction, Dinuba

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Randall Steen

**Statement:**

Aaron Gibson is a student in my class who exhibits trustworthiness daily. Aaron always tells the truth, even when it doesn't benefit him. Aaron shows up to school ready to learn, and always keeps his pledge to give his best as a class citizen. I can always rely on Aaron for the truth. Aaron is a trustworthy student who will be honest in his answers.

Aaron is a pleasure to have in class, and is a model for trustworthiness to his class peers. His attitude and character are something I look forward to daily when I come into work.

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**Student Name:** David Camarillo  
**School:** Dinuba High School, Dinuba

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominators:** TJ Celaya and  
Tonya Pennebaker

**Statement:**

A current Dinuba High School senior who exemplifies upstanding citizenship within our community is David Camarillo. David's empathetic commitment to his community: He has helped start a campaign in our community to help homeless families each year. He has worked with local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce to volunteer serving in various community events. David has also led groups of student volunteers to partner with a local church that is dedicated to serving free meals on holidays and distributing toys to children during Christmas break. He has always been the leading contact with such organizations as he is reliable, kind, humble, outgoing and always wanting to serve in any capacity. While David continues to actively serve the DHS student body with his many active roles as officers for these clubs, it is his commitment to his community through his volunteer service that sets him apart from his peers.

David's leadership in our NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) club throughout his tenure at DHS allowed him to step out and serve his community in a multitude of ways. He was responsible for helping to start a campaign to raise funds and gather other students to work alongside him to purchase and create items for care packages for the homeless community in our town. Inspired by compassion, David was able to reach out to a local non-profit organization called Open Gate which houses individuals and families that are less fortunate and temporarily homeless. David has led efforts to help break the stigma of mental illness by assisting in decorating our football stadium with the color green to raise awareness during mental health month and suicide prevention month.

There are few, if any students that you will find as intelligent, hardworking, and determined as David. He is a responsible, caring, student and does everything with excellence.



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**Student Name:** *Khaelynn Melchor*

**School:** Grand View Elementary School,  
Dinuba

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Rafael Cisneros

**Statement:**

I met Khaelynn three years ago when I was her older sister's teacher. Khaelynn shows up to school everyday with a positive attitude and a big welcoming smile. She is always willing to help anyone in need both in the classroom or around the campus. She has much compassion for her classmates. I had a new student last week that was nervous about her first day. Khaelynn showed her around campus and made sure that the new student had someone to play with at recess. She also does a great job of using her words to build up her peers. Khaelynn complements her peers on things she notices that usually go unnoticed by most. Khaelynn is one of the most caring students I have had in my classroom, and I am honored to be her teacher this year.

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**Student Name:** Ruby Gutierrez

**School:** Jefferson Elementary School,  
Dinuba

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Martha Sawatzky

**Statement:**

Ruby displays the Pillar of Caring (and responsibility, as well). She asked me early in the year if she could come help me in the morning before school, and she has come almost every single day. She sets chairs down from on top of the desks, sets up the computers and their headphones, and passes out papers or anything else that needs to be done. Then, once class begins, she gets right to work, finishing her reading assignments quickly and begins to help other students. She remembers her individual personal library time and makes sure she is prepared to go at the correct time, without ever being reminded. One Friday, when I had the students eat lunch with me in my classroom as a reward for doing their homework, two students each sat down near a bigger group of girls. I invited the girls to join the larger group, and Ruby was the first to say, "Yes, come join us. Come sit right here, next to me!" Each girl hesitated as they were trying to decide if they would, and Ruby's friendly smile seemed to be just what they needed to feel wanted and included! Ruby well deserves recognition for her caring, helpful ways.

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**Student Name:** Emma Rodriguez

**School:** Lincoln Elementary School,  
Dinuba

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Tina Faulkner

**Statement:**

Emma exemplifies the Pillar of Respect. She shows respect for both her peers and to the adults in her life. She always listens to other people's perspectives and is able to respectfully disagree. Emma is a super sweet girl with a tremendous heart. I am thrilled to be able to nominate her for 2022 Kids of Character.

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**Student Name:** Vivian Rodriguez  
**School:** Ronald Reagan Academy ,Dinuba

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Terry McReynolds

**Statement:**

Vivian Rodriguez demonstrates responsibility by using all of her time in class to actively engage in ELA 11 learning modules. She advances quickly by dedicating time after school to recover credits on Edgenuity. Even though she struggled to stay on track during some hard times, she continues to surprise me by completing all her assignments with an average grade of "B+". After completing her assignments, she respectfully requests more work to complete. She is a hard - working student who takes responsibility seriously. She has a plan to attend college after graduating high school.

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**Student Name:** Abraham Moreno

**School:** Roosevelt Elementary School,  
Dinuba

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Lynn Hampton

**Statement:**

Abraham is a very sweet boy. He cares about all of his friends. We have a student with special needs in our class who likes to touch people. Abraham never complains, even when the other student is climbing on him.



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**Student Name:** Kimberly Reyes

**School:** Wilson Elementary School,  
Dinuba

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Aileen Galvan

**Statement:**

Kimberly has demonstrated several ways on how she is caring. She is extremely helpful to those around her and will offer to help in any way that she can. When I started off the year as a first year teacher, Kimberly stepped up to help me in any way that she could, such as answering any questions I had about the way certain things were done in the school. During her recess, Kimberly offers to help pick up trash because she wants to make sure her school looks nice. As a bilingual speaker, she offers to help and translate for her Spanish speaking classmate.

Kimberly is the perfect example of what a caring student looks like. I am extremely lucky and proud to have someone as caring as Kimberly in my classroom!

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Lupita Flores

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Desi Perez

**School:** Alila School, Earlimart

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Jana Bleuer

**Statement:**

I have a student in my class who is on an IEP. Desi sits next to him, even without my knowledge, always trying to help him. I even found him drawing a number line on the other student's whiteboard to help him keep up when we were using whiteboards in our rounding and comparing numbers lessons. Desi is always trying to help others and is very thoughtful of all. He is a great example of the Pillar of Caring.

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**Student Name** Amailany Garcia  
Salazar

**School:** Earlimart Elementary School,  
Earlimart

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Suzanne Levy

**Statement:**

Amailany is a wonderful student. She works hard at every task given to her. She raises her hand to answer and participates no matter what the task or who she works with. She helps those around her by her words and actions. No matter what the lesson or activity, I can count on her to set an example of respect towards her teachers and peers. In one of our first lessons this year, we were talking about respecting others. She raised her hand and said that respect means treating others the way you want to be treated. She lives that out in her daily life.

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**Student Name:** Gonzalo Sanchez Laurel  
**School:** Earlimart Middle School,  
Earlimart

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Jose D. Viramontes

**Statement:**

Gonzalo is one of the most respectful students in my classroom. He shows respect to all his teachers, peers, and belongings of others in the school. He always says thank you for everything we do. It doesn't matter if it was done electronically or in person. Gonzalo strives to reach his full potential everyday by trying his best in his 8th grade math class and along with the Algebra class that he is taking on the side. He always takes responsibility for his actions and never has any excuses for these actions. He accepts the consequences. He is a happy individual in our classroom. It is great to have him as a student.



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**Student Name:** Galilea Garcia

**School:** Exeter Union High School,  
Exeter

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Margie Reed

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Trisha Terry

**School:** Kaweah Continuation High School, Exeter

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Darin Pace

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Jonathan Andrade  
Hernandez

**School:** Lincoln Elementary School, Exeter

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Austin McKinzie

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pilar:** Responsabilidad

**Nominador:** Austin McKinzie

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Emiliano Macias

**School:** Rocky Hill Elementary School,  
Exeter

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Kathy Logan

**Statement:**

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



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

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Lucinda Filpi

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Melinda Canning

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Lupe Ortega

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Ariel Torres

**School:** J.E.Hester School, Farmersville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Kristy Setser

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Benjermen Gomez  
**School:** Ivanhoe Elementary School,  
Ivanhoe

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Osiel Garcia Cervantes

**Statement:**

Benjermen is one of the most caring individuals I have come across. He is very approachable and willing to help others in need no matter their circumstances. He is a role model for other students on campus. Everyday Benjermen shows up to school with a smile and high optimism. His love and dedication for learning have earned him our first 8th - grade student of the month. Benjermen exemplifies our acronym P.O.W.E.R. at our school. He always has a positive attitude, takes ownership of his actions, makes wise choices, is educationally focused, and respects all of those around him. He is a future leader. It's a true honor to have Benjermen with us this year.



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**Student Name:** Vincent Cacace

**School:** Kings River Union School,  
Kingsburg

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Sarah Humason

**Statement:**

Vincent is cognizant and caring of those around him, whether they're friends or unfamiliar to him. He goes out of his way to be kind or attempt to include others that he's noticed may need some friendly words or to be shown they are welcome and important. Vincent also volunteers as needed to assist adult staff. Without a request or prompting, Vincent has demonstrated his caring attitude towards all and always unconditionally. He notices when help is needed, whether it be with an academic or extra-curricular activity, and will immediately share his knowledge and skills to help peers feel successful. Vincent is also known to be kind with nature and animals, and takes responsibility to care for animals and humans whenever he can. Vincent radiates a caring attitude each day and is a wonderful role model for all other students. He is most definitely a helpful, kind, and generous young man.

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**Student Name:** Aubrey Espinoza

**School:** Jefferson Elementary School,  
Lindsay

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Blanca Lopez

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Cintya Lopez

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Katelaine Rojas

**Statement:**

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

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

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

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Julie Denni

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Violette Lane

**School:** Loma Vista Charter School,  
Lindsay

**Pillar:** Responsibility

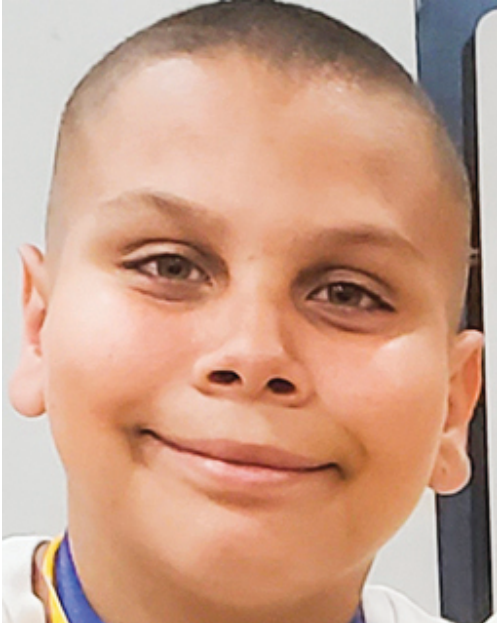
**Nominator:** Amalia Lopez

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Jeremiah Francis

**School:** Reagan Elementary School,  
Lindsay

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Erik Walker

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Daniel Ortiz

**School:** Roosevelt Elementary  
School, Lindsay

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Sarah Diaz

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Keyana Gonzalez

**School:** El Monte Middle School,  
Orosi

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Jose Montemayor

**Statement:**

I had a difficult time narrowing down which pillar best described this student because she truly embodies each of these traits. Keyana is trustworthy, respectful, fair and kind. She participates in food drives and takes part in her community to make it a better place. However, I chose the trait that you do not often see in students at this age, which is responsibility.

Keyana embodies the pillar of responsibility at its highest level. She truly believes that it is her responsibility to be the best possible version of herself no matter the task. For example, the students had an assignment, which involved an essay on the history of Jamestown. When Keyana wrote her essay, she had a request for me. She asked me, "Mr. Montemayor, can you make sure that when you check my essay you hold me accountable? If you see any areas that can be improved or if I made any mistakes please let me know what they are. I want to be challenged, I want to be pushed. I want to excel." She wanted the criticisms, to have all the errors noted and to know where she could improve. Students usually are discouraged by the infamous red pen but Keyana is inspired by it.

Every student that is around her benefits from her. In other words, Keyana is not happy with just challenging herself but also the students around her, and they enjoy it. They all want to sit with her because they feel that they are better learners when they do. She inspires them to be more.

She exemplifies each and every character trait on this list because of her awe-inspiring need to do the right thing at all times.

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**Student Name:** Michelle Flores

**School:** Golden Valley Elementary  
School, Oroshi

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Megan Thiessen

**Statement:**

Michelle Flores is a student of character, from the moment she walks into the classroom until she walks out at the end of the day. Michelle is being nominated for the Pillar of Caring. So far this year, we have had two new students and Michelle was one of the first students to welcome them to our classroom, give them a tour at recess time, and answer any questions they had. She has taken time out of her day, when she has completed her own assignments, to sit down and help these two students. Anytime we have a need, she is the first one to raise her hand or volunteer. Having a student like Michelle is like having a glass of cold water on a hot day. Her presence in the classroom is refreshing and everyone appreciates her.

I feel honored to have her in the classroom because she has been recognized by other teachers she comes into contact with for her caring nature. She naturally wants to support others when they don't understand. One student Michelle has gravitated toward is a newcomer to our school who only speaks Arabic. Even though there is a language barrier, she has been extremely helpful in using nonverbal cues in music and modeling how to complete tasks in our STEM program.

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**Student Name:** Nazareth Zavala

**School:** Palm Elementary School,  
Orosi

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Tamara Berry

**Statement:**

Nazareth is a student who exemplifies all of the Six Pillars. She has God at the wheel of her education. She exuberates love, kindness, caring, respect, trustworthiness, and responsibility. She is patient and motivated to do her best. If she doesn't understand a concept in class, she will seek out information on her own. She supports her peers in a kind way. She literally could run our class. She always uses kind words. I have never seen her get upset or frustrated. She loves to come to school and do her best ,to make her parents proud.

I started the year out pretty bumpy, with the loss and hospitalization of family members. Nazareth always greets me with a hug and asks how I am doing. She has insight into the feelings of others even if they don't show it. One day she brought me a scripture Romans 15:13 that stated "Give joy to my teacher and brighten her day". This act of kindness continued and it has brought me great happiness. What a beautiful child. I am so blessed to have her as my student. She is going to make a huge difference in this world.



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**Student Name:** Lance Bonds

**School:** Pixley Elementary School,  
Pixley

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Bridget Hanna

**Statement:**

Lance is so very caring! He cares about his tools and books. He cares about doing the right thing and helping others. He actually cares so much for his friends that he often would worry about them if they were having a bad day. He would let friends borrow his stuffed animal or colored pencils for the day to cheer them up. He also cared for his teacher! He would greet me with a big smile in second grade and tell me to have a good day!

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**Student Name:** Esmeralda Ruiz  
**School:** Pixley Middle School, Pixley

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Deborah McCaskill

**Statement:**

Esmeralda Ruiz is a wonderful student who demonstrates a strong work ethic and an understanding of how her choices impact the learning of those around her. She is respectful of our classroom routines and expectations and sets a very high standard in our class. One example of how she demonstrates respect is the care she shows to a fellow student that needs extra support in class. I have observed Esmeralda taking time to make sure her peer is comfortable with a group assignment, has the opportunity to participate, and receives extra peer support to be successful. She is extremely patient and sensitive to her peer's feelings and is watchful for the need for additional help. Her concern and care have made a definite positive impact. It is very apparent that the respect she shows toward this peer creates a sense of belonging and helps the peer to feel success and achievement. It is also a sign that Esmeralda understands the positive impact she can have on others and she chooses to do things that make a difference.

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**Student Name:** Jon Carlos Ruiz

**School:** Pleasant View Elementary School,  
Poplar

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Tashima Irving

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Hannah Jones

**School:** Alta Vista School, Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Vanessa Reilly

**Statement:**

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

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

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

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Shelby Lozano

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Elijah Mora

**School:** Belleview Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Barbara Loehner

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Nevarro Suarez

**School:** Burton Elementary School  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Leslee Taylor

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Fernando Gonzalez

**Statement:**

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

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

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Irma Guajardo

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Joanna Molina Ambriz

**School:** Granite Hills High School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Cody Diliberto

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Ellan Baeza

**School:** Hope School, Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Cheyenne Ramirez

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Nataly Prieto

**School:** John J. Doyle Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Susana Arteaga

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Madison Pruitt

**School:** Los Robles Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Christina Dole

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Samantha Williams

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Sophia Guerrero

**School:** Monte Vista Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Angie Torres

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Lidia Vazquez

**School:** Oak Grove Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Jill Roberts

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Anthony Mendez

**School:** Olive Street Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Jill Stokes

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Bertha Cortez

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Evelyn Bucio

**School:** Pleasant View West School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Tashima Irving

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Brenna Galloway

**School:** Porterville High School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Magdalena Echeveste

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Alicia Nolan

**School:** Porterville Military Academy,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** SFC Villa

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Rozlynn Angco

**School:** Roche Avenue Elementary  
School, Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Cassie Rapp

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** David Gallo

**School:** Santa Fe Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Carrie Teves

**Statement:**

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

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

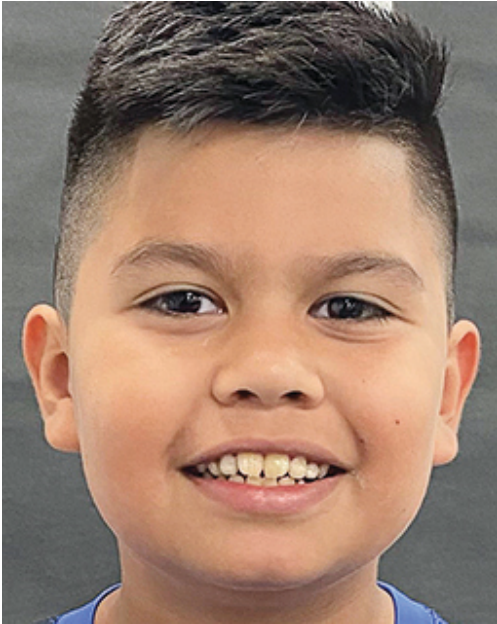
**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Tarah High

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Alonso Diaz

**School:** Summit Charter Academy  
Mathew Campus, Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Brenda Ruiz

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Isaac Gallardo

**School:** Summit Charter Collegiate  
Academy, Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Erin Alafa

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Joseph Aguayo

**School:** Summit Charter Intermediate Academy, Porterville

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Samuel Novinger

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Dianara Pulido

**School:** Vandalia Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Mary Arias

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Daniel Pena Avila

**School:** West Putnam Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Mrs. Adegbenro

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Thalie Munoz Rodriguez  
**School:** Westfield Elementary School,  
Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Megan Gonzales

**Statement:**

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



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**Student Name:** Hazel Cardenas

**School:** William R. Buckley Elementary  
School, Porterville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Cassandra Williams

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Amanda Renteria

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Adena Joseph

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Annie Yorba

**School:** Springville Union School, Springville

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Brooke Mariboho

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** John Cemo

**School:** Harmony Magnet Academy,  
Strathmore

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Mildred Edsberg

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Maya Chapa

**School:** Strathmore Elementary School,  
Strathmore

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Stephen Sobko

**Statement:**

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



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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** John Lujan and  
Renee Ortiz

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Zachary Avalos

**School:** Strathmore Middle School, Strathmore

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Tasha Boehme

**Statement:**

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

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

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Alicia Franco

**Statement:**

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

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**Student Name:** Jimena Ortiz

**School:** Monson-Sultana Joint Union  
School, Sultana

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Carmen Arellano

**Statement:**

Jimena Ortiz has been showing responsible character. She has been absent a few times and every single time she has sent her older sibling to my classroom to turn in her homework or to pick up new homework. She is committed to her learning and doesn't use absences as an excuse to not do her homework. She's a student of responsible character.

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**Student Name:** Arturo Rodriguez  
**School:** Saucelito School, Terra Bella

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Rebecca Borges

**Statement:**

If I could nominate Arturo Rodriguez for more than one category I would. He is a very respectful and responsible young man. He constantly asks others if they need help. On several occasions he has asked to carry things for others or has even held a door open for someone. He never has a bad word to say about anyone and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Not only is he respectful and thoughtful but he is also very responsible. Arturo has been a student of mine for three school years now and in that time I do not recall him missing one single assignment. He is very organized and always on task. I couldn't ask for a better student, and I look forward to seeing what he accomplishes in the years to come.

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**Student Name:** True Bennett

**School:** Three Rivers Union Elementary  
School, Three Rivers

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Liz Harrelson

**Statement:**

True is an exceptional friend. During carpet time, she always raises her hand and has thoughtful comments to share about our discussions. During disagreements, she uses her big words to talk through troubling situations. On the playground, she looks out for the safety of herself and others. True sets a great example of caring and compassion in our TK/Kindergarten classroom.



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**Student Name:** Valeria Velasco

**School:** Tipton School, Tipton

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Gina Manfredi

**Statement:**

Valeria is a phenomenal athlete and has the best character I have seen in a student in quite a while. Her skills as an athlete are not why I am nominating her. I am nominating her because she is a very hard worker. Valeria was seated in the back of my classroom and instead of sitting there and struggling to see, she simply asked if she could sit right up front when I was teaching and then move back to her seat to complete her lessons. She has been very consistent in being that responsible with her work. She gives that much attention to her studies and even more on the court/field. She is such a pleasure to have as a student that I really want her to get recognized for the great student that she is!

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**Student Name:** Daniel Rojas  
**School:** Traver Joint School, Traver

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Linda Navarro

**Statement:**

Daniel Rojas always has a smile on his face and will help out with any task during or after school. He is just an all around good student.

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**Student Name:** Angel Salas-Villa

**School:** Accelerated Charter High School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Michelle Reindl

**Statement:**

I have the privilege of having Angel in two of my math classes. He attends everyday, does all his work (with a great attitude), and helps his peers. In fact, I hear many academic conversations occurring at his table. His success makes me proud to know him.

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**Student Name:** Arithzi Tejada

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

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominators:** Jennifer Martins and  
Monica Silveira

**Statement:**

Arithzi follows directions and completes all tasks she is given with 100% effort. She comes prepared to class and is always ready to learn something new. Arithi is one of the most respectful students I have ever met. She is always kind to her peers and every adult she interacts with. She always has a smile on her face and works to the best of her ability. She is an advocate for other students who may be struggling and shows what it truly means to be Stallion STRONG. Arithzi is genuinely a very special young lady who, through her actions, helps make Mulcahy even more special.

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**Student Name:** Casey Luttrell

**School:** Alpine Vista School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominators:** Kaela Coday and  
Heather Sayre-Silva

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**Statement:**

Casey is trustworthy in her work and her actions. She is always honest but friendly towards her classmates. She is responsible enough to not lose things, that her group members trust her to hold onto them. Casey is a well rounded young lady that shows all the pillars of character each day. She is a scholar, athlete, thespian, and more! She can be counted on to be kind and respectful to others. She can be trusted to do what she says and that what she says is true. I'm proud to have her on our Leadership team at Alpine and think she deserves a shout out for her greatness.

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**Student Name:** Andrew See-Mendoza  
**School:** Buena Vista School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Alex Mendes

**Statement:**

Andrew has had a GREAT start to his final year at Buena Vista Elementary. He has worked hard during the first half of our 1st quarter. It has been fun watching him mature during his middle school years. I could see him breaking through during the end of last year. This year, he has proven that he's ready to continue where he left off.

I can typically expect a fist bump and a good morning from Andrew nearly everyday. At the end of the day, it's "Have a good day Mr. Mendes." Not only does Andrew show respect towards myself, but I also notice him doing it towards his other teachers and classmates as well. Andrew has also really started to take and show responsibility with his studies. This year, he seems more motivated to do what we know he's capable of doing!



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**Student Name:** Nathan Medina-Lara

**School:** Cherry Avenue Middle School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Mrs. Angella Chamalbide

**Statement:**

I would like to nominate Nathan Medina-Lara for the Pillar of Citizenship because he exudes the Cherry Avenue Motto "DOGS". He is confident to "Do what's right" in and outside of class.

Nathan "Owns his actions" by doing his personal best everyday he enters my classroom. He "Gives respect" to all the staff and students at Cherry, and typically does it with a beaming smile on his face wearing his favorite baseball hat. "Supporting others" comes natural to Nathan. He is a positive and outgoing person, you can't help but smile when you are around him.

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**Student Name:** Marbella Gonzalez  
**School:** Countryside High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Elizabeth Castaneda

**Statement:**

Marbella is awesome at getting what needs to be completed in class done. She is a hard worker and we know she is a student who we are sure will complete her work and do what she is supposed to do.

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**Student Name:** Victoria Cooper-Martinez  
**School:** Cypress Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Laqueste Davis

**Statement:**

Victoria is one of my students who models what it means to be responsible. She is the perfect individual for this character trait. I can recall one day when I had to be out, and she emailed me to remind me to send in the class percentage for the spirit day. Boy was I glad that she has my back. Not only does she have my back but she also has her peer's backs as well. She is always reminding her peers what needs to be done and how it should be done. She clearly is a responsible young lady; and I admire that about her. Her consistency will go far and so will her charismatic personality. I'm thankful that I'm her teacher. I know her parents are proud of the young lady she is becoming.

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**Student Name:** Azeneth Garcia

**School:** Frank Kohn Elementary School  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Korbin Quinn

**Statement:**

Azeneth Garcia is a young, bright and caring four year old that has just embarked on her educational journey in Transitional Kindergarten. This scholar has demonstrated the Six Pillars of Character in the short few months of school daily. Though her actions made it tough to determine a pillar she exemplifies most, I am recognizing her for the Pillar of Caring. This student always makes it a point to help others with assignments when they need guidance. She plays games we have learned by the rules reminding students to take turns, use kind words, and share the manipulatives. She has befriended all of her peers inside and outside of the classroom making sure everyone is feeling welcome. I can always count on her to be that friend who can cheer someone up, assist a friend to the nurse when they have injured themselves, or be the first person to put something back in order. Not only does she care about making her parents and teacher proud through her actions at such a young age, she also cares about her education.

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**Student Name:** Aleah Rosas

**School:** Garden Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Melissa Johnson

**Statement:**

Aleah has shown me so many characteristics of all of the pillars in her short time in Kindergarten with me. She is so kind, caring and helpful to all of the teachers on campus as well as her peers. When she sees a mess left behind, trash on the floor or the playground she takes time to stop what she is doing even if she is playing to help clean it up. She makes sure our classroom and playground are neat and tidy everyday and tells me she loves to be a helper. She is an amazing friend in class and on the playground. If she sees a sad friend she walks up to them, takes their hand and asks if they are ok. She will walk a friend to me who needs help or offer a hug to someone in tears. She is so kind and respectful in class, always raising her hand and getting all her work and jobs done. She always does her best and offers to help others who are not sure how to do their job.

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**Student Name:** Geronimo Leal

**School:** Heritage Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Jennifer Powers

**Statement:**

Sometimes recess equipment ends up on the wrong side of the fence. It is important to not leave it in the field because it might get taken by others who use the field. I was opening the gate whenever students needed to get something that went over the fence. Geronimo finally asked if he could help me close up the gate at the end of recess. This would enable me to focus on my playground duty and not have to open and reopen the gate. Geronimo finally took it upon himself to stand as a "gatekeeper" of sorts to hold the lock, make sure only students that needed to retrieve equipment went through the gate and lock it up at the end of recess. Sometimes, he will even help to retrieve the balls that go over for the students who accidentally kicked or threw it over the fence. He is helping our school so that we can keep track of all of our recess equipment. It also helps keep everyone safe because he locks the gate up at the end of recess and his help enables me to do my job of keeping the playground safe.



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**Student Name:** Violeta Alexander

**School:** Kings Valley Academy II, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Colette Hayslett and  
Reggie Trevino

**Statement:**

Violeta Alexander exemplifies the pillar of Responsibility. After enrolling into Kings Valley Academy II, Violeta lost her mom, but despite her pain and grief, Violeta understood that quitting was not an option. Ms. Alexander continues to push through, growing leaps and bounds, while she stays the course on her educational journey. As she comes up on her senior year, Violeta has maintained productivity in completing assignments/credits on time, she self-advocates for her social-emotional and learning needs, a great communicator, is an active member of our Student Leadership team, babysits and spends time with her sisters children, and she has plans to graduate high school to pursue higher education/nursing school. We LOVE that Violeta is a part of our learning community and that we get to share and celebrate in her successes.

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**Student Name:** Grant Crawford

**School:** Liberty School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Robert Aldaco

**Statement:**

I nominate Grant Crawford for the pillar of Trustworthiness. Grant is an 8th grade student who has shown over the years that he can be trusted. He is respected for his honesty by his teachers, coaches, and, most importantly, his peers. I have had the opportunity to be his teacher for three years, and Grant has always demonstrated and built a reputation as being honest, dependable, and reliable. He is a student that has the courage to do the right thing. He is a role model for all students at Liberty school.

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**Student Name:** Leonardo Banda

**School:** Lincoln Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Marissa Lopes

**Statement:**

Leonardo is someone his teachers and peers can count on. Leo always makes the right decision and shows Lincoln Lion PRIDE everywhere he goes. He is honest, genuine, and reliable. He is a leader on campus and shows everyone, whether on the playground or in the classroom that being honest and owning up to mistakes is the best decision you can make!

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**Student Name:** Timothy Gallego

**School:** Live Oak Middle School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Melissa Gonzalez

**Statement:**

Timothy Gallegos demonstrates the trait of responsibility by taking ownership of his life and acknowledging his power to choose what he thinks (including his attitude and mindset), what he says and does, and be held accountable for the consequences of his choices.

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**Student Name:** Marina Gomez

**School:** Los Tules Middle School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Kathy Ruiz

**Statement:**

Marina is an outstanding student who demonstrates great levels of responsibility while working as an office aide in the front office. She takes it upon herself to complete tasks, help out any way possible and is on top of her school work. She is an excellent young lady that we are proud to have as a student at our school.

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**Student Name:** Daniel Bobadilla

**School:** Maple Elementary School  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Rochelle Muller

**Statement:**

I am nominating Daniel Bobadilla for the Pillar of Caring. Daniel always walks in the classroom with a big smile, ready to work. He is very helpful by assisting his table partner in logging in to her chromebook and helping her with assignments that she doesn't understand. He is very patient and kind with her. Daniel can also be heard paying his fellow classmates a compliment on their art work or handwriting. He is a pleasure to be around and a joy to have in class. That is why I nominate Daniel for the Pillar of Caring.



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**Student Name:** Aileen Alba Tello

**School:** Mission Oak High School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominators:** Noreen Cabrera and  
Dave Caetano

**Statement:**

Aileen is one of the kindest, generous, most genuine people you will ever meet. I have had her in our basketball program for four years, and she demonstrates kindness and compassion on a daily basis. She is considerate of all those she comes in contact with, and it is so natural to her she doesn't even realize it. But all those who know her certainly appreciate that characteristic about her. She is the epitome of responsibility, and we feel extremely lucky to have her as part of our team. Mature, knowledgeable, and reliable are just a small description of all the characteristics that make up the reasons I'd like her recognized for the Pillar of Responsibility.

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**Student Name:** Felix Bautista

**School:** Mission Valley Elementary  
School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Dana Elkins

**Statement:**

Felix has a great understanding and awareness of the world around him. I was his teacher last year, but he greatly impressed me with his awareness of issues going on outside of his community. When the war in Ukraine began, he donated money to organizations that were helping those in need. He also emailed his Congressmen after the Uvalde school shooting. He has such a tremendous heart for others in need.

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**Student Name:** Jeferson Orellana

**School:** Oak Valley Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Debbie Hornung

**Statement:**

I am very happy to nominate Jeferson for the trait of citizenship! Jeferson and his sister came to our school about mid-year from a small town in El Salvador. Both do not speak English but are working very hard each day to learn English. Jeferson has been very lucky to also work with our Bilingual Aide, Mrs. Sanchez. This year I have him for Intervention. Jeferson has come very far in a short time! Jeferson is a great brother to his sister! At the beginning of the year, his sister was using a wheelchair. Jeferson would always help out by getting Jessica's backpack and pushing her wheelchair from class to class. Not many little brothers would take the time to take such great care of their older sibling. This is one of the many reasons why I am nominating Jeferson for citizenship. I am very proud of you and I cannot wait to see just how much you accomplish this year!

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**Student Name:** Addasin Bogert

**School:** Palo Verde Union School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Phil Anderson

**Statement:**

Addasin Bogert is an amazing third grader. She can always be counted on to help others if they are having a bad day, need help with an assignment, or could use someone to brighten their day. Last year, when Addison was in second grade, a student returned to school after having been gone a year. Addasin stepped right in and helped her classmate get reacquainted to school.

She made sure that the student had someone to play with, and she helped him whenever he felt lonely or when he needed support. In third grade, Addasin has been a special friend to a classmate who needs extra help during the day. Addasin has impressed me with her patience, her willingness to help with a smile, and her genuine concern for those around her. She embodies what it means to be a Palo Verde Tiger!

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**Student Name:** Roman Guerrero

**School:** Pleasant Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Sheena Castillo

:

**Statement:**

Roman was in my third grade class last year, and he was the most caring student the entire year. He was always excited to learn everyday and was sad when we had vacation or days off. He cared about his peers' academics and social well being. When a student needed help academically he was the first to offer to explain to them. When a student was not having a great day, he was the first to cheer them up. Roman always had an optimistic response to new learnings or any change in schedule. He always volunteered even when he may be unsure if he had the correct response to a question. He cares about being a leader in our classroom and in the schoolwide community. He is definitely a pillar for caring and a great role model to all at Pleasant.

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**Student Name:** Amina Garza

**School:** Roosevelt Elementary School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Tanya Sunderland

**Statement:**

Amina has been helping a student who has special needs. The student looks up to her because she has been a really good friend. Amina likes to help her friend and make sure she knows where to go. In addition, if the student seems lost on her way to the class or playground, Amina helps her find her way back.



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**Student Name:** Anthony Reyes-Guerrero  
**School:** Sierra Vista Charter High School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Katie Wilding

**Statement:**

Anthony is a quiet young man of few words, but when he does share something or respond to a question during our meeting, his responses are genuine, thoughtful and honest. I appreciate how hard he worked to get caught up on his credits last year as a sophomore. He had a challenging schedule, but focused on the deadlines we set together and he got caught up completely!! This year, as a junior, he continues to be a responsible student who is reliable and hard-working. I am really proud of him and am thankful we get to work together!!!

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**Student Name:** Julianne Garcia  
**School:** Sundale Union School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Noemi Gil

**Statement:**

Julianne exemplifies citizenship by helping out at our school's V-center, assisting at our local fair and handing out sopas to the community. She is a member of 4-H and raises funds for their crab feed. She is a great citizen and will continue to make an impact in our community and beyond.

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**Student Name:** Carlos Contreras

**School:** Tulare Tech Prep High School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:s** Tech Prep School Staff

**Statement:**

Carlos gives up his break and part of his lunch to help our lunch staff serve lunch. He always makes sure he finishes his work before he leaves class to go and help get lunch ready before the bell rings. He always shows up to school early to help set up the canopy for morning check in. He always has a positive attitude and is always willing to help.

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**Student Name:** Angelina Flores

**School:** Tulare Union High School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Shana Duke

**Statement:**

Angelina is the embodiment of a caring student. As a freshman during the 2021/2022 school year, Angelina quickly learned how to navigate high school life. She then helped her friends, and then class peers. I had Angelina in two classes, and in both she demonstrated an uncommon willingness to support those around her without question. She was incredibly kind and patient with students that struggled with algebra, while helping them learn and improve. She is beyond trustworthy and responsible. She is one of the most respectful students I have ever met. She is fair and kind to everyone around her, and still wants to contribute back to her school community. Angelina has already requested to act as a peer tutor in my future classes so that she can continue to engage with students and support them in their learning.

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**Student Name:** Olivia Machado

**School:** Tulare Western High School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominators:** Michelle Gill and  
Maria Spellman

**Statement:**

Olivia is a very responsible individual. She is able to prioritize and manage her commitments in and out of the classroom and pool. She is an outstanding student, a hard working athlete, and leader in her involvement at the Ag Farm. During a socratic seminar in class, Olivia noticed that one of her classmates (who has autism) wanted to say something but wasn't sure how to join the conversation. Olivia took the opportunity to ask, "Ariel, did you want to say something?" He did, and was then able to share an insight with the whole class. I was really proud of Olivia for helping her classmate join the conversation.

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**Student Name:** Taylor Solis

**School:** Waukena Joint Union School,  
Tulare

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominators:** Melinda Mills, Becky  
Lam and Cecilia Moreno

**Statement:**

Taylor came up to the office because she had gotten a scrape at recess. When she came in, she noticed one of her classmates struggling to hold a bag of ice on her ankle. Taylor went right over and knelt down to hold the bag of ice for her classmate. Taylor noticed another student was hurting and needed help, and instead of worrying about herself, she went right over to help another person. I tease her that she is our “little Nurse”. She has been a sweet and caring girl since kindergarten and continues to show care and compassion for other students. She was so sweet and caring toward her classmate who was hurt.



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**Student Name:** Ailyn Gomez

**School:** Wilson Elementary School, Tulare

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Cristina Coffman

**Statement:**

Ailyn is always respectful to everyone she encounters on a daily basis. She quietly does what she is asked to do by teachers and other adults at school. She treats her classmates with respect also, even in difficult situations. You can always catch her following directions and the school rules.

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**Student Name:** Xzavier Robles

**School:** Annie R. Mitchell Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Megan Madsen

**Statement:**

Xzavier has demonstrated the Pillar of Citizenship at school and in his community. He is a member of the Golden Eagle Academy and works with peers to improve the school and create events to engage his school family in a fun and interactive environment. In the classroom he is respectful to classmates and always willing to lend a helping hand. He is a member of local football and baseball teams in his community. He works with his peers on those teams to achieve their goals while being respectful and fair to the teams they face.

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**Student Name:** Ashley Franz

**School:** Blue Oak Academy, Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Jacob Martinez

**Statement:**

Ashley Franz is a kind and caring person. She puts her heart on her sleeve 24/7 and is someone who always puts others' needs in front of her own. She is incredibly kind, and patient with those who need help, and is welcoming to everyone she meets, going out of her way to make the classroom that much more welcoming. She is a constant example to all around her of how we can all be more caring. Though I am the teacher, I feel like she is constantly reminding me and challenging me to be more caring as an individual, and I am more than happy to have her as my example. I cannot wait to see the positive and generous impact that Ashley leaves on the world, because the world could stand to have a few more Ashley's out there.

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**Student Name:** Dane Rainey

**School:** Central Valley Christian  
Elementary School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Shay Williams-Hopper

**Statement:**

Dane is a young man we met playing baseball through Cal Ripken Baseball. He knows how to work hard, but more importantly, he has the kindest soul you have ever met. He helped my son all week with his Market Goat project at the county fair. During baseball season he supported every kid on and off the field with compliments, and is just so very kind.

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**Student Name:** Mila Alfrey

**School:** Charter Home School Academy,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Marlene Moreno

**Statement:**

Mila Alfrey is a real mature first grader who is home schooled. She enjoys doing homework, puzzles and playing with her younger brother and sister. She is always helpful and kind to her siblings. Mila is friendly when meeting new people her age.

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**Student Name:** Richard Alonso

**School:** Compass Program, Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Jennifer Steinhauer

**Statement:**

Richard has shown respect to both staff and peers. Staff has seen great improvement in the areas of behavior and academics



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**Student Name:** Alonzo Ortega

**School:** Conyer Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Lyndsay Gentert

**Statement:**

Alonzo works very hard in class and never gives up. He is a team captain for his table group and works hard to set a great example for them. He ensures they are on task and following directions without prompting from the teacher. He jumps up and helps his peers whenever they may need it and does it with care and grace. He has taken on the role of morning meeting leader and greets the class every morning with a big smile and makes them all feel welcome.

Morning meeting leader is a tough job but he does it every day effortlessly and sets the tone of fairness and positivity in our classroom. He is a great attribute to our class and his peers respect him and look up to him.

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**Student Name:** Joseph Fisher

**School:** Cottonwood Creek Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Cheyanne Sholl

**Statement:**

Joseph has the best citizenship that I have seen in a 6th grader during my entire teaching career. He goes above and beyond to volunteer for activities for the school and communities. He truly has the heart of a volunteer!!! He was Student Council President last year and hopes to be again this year. That position has truly shown his volunteering spirit as he helps anyone in need.

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**Student Name:** Oliver Garcia-McDowell  
**School:** Crestwood Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Traci Hunzeker

**Statement:**

Oliver's responsibility can be seen throughout his day. Oliver takes responsibility for his learning. He makes wonderful contributions to class discussions. He takes his assignments seriously and will ask questions regarding anything he needs clarification for. Oliver also takes responsibility for his actions. If he thinks he has done something wrong, he sincerely apologizes and goes about to make it right. Additionally, Oliver takes responsibility for his peers. He is helpful and there for them to be successful, too.

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**Student Name:** Javier Aleman

**School:** Crowley Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Yesina Sanchez

**Statement:**

From the first day of school, this student has shown all the qualities of being Caring. He helped new students in our classroom by showing them around and also just making them feel comfortable. He came in and helped others either by reminding them of what to do or even helping with technology. Although I have only known this student for a few weeks, he is just a naturally caring person. He strives to be a good friend and student at school. I hope he continues to be his best caring self in the future!

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**Student Name:** Tiki Valenzuela

**School:** Denton Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Stephanie Gendron

**Statement:**

Tiki goes out of his way to help others. He takes initiative to show kindness towards others, and adults and students appreciate having him on our campus. Tiki is a 6th grader who notices when a fellow dragon is struggling, and he always offers support. He loves to be helpful and recently he was seen assisting a teacher with their student desks, opening doors for others on campus, and caring for a friend who needed an encouraging word. At Denton, we serve students who have moderate to severe Special Education needs, and Tiki loves to be a friend to others even when they cannot communicate with him. He most often does not choose to eat with his general education peers, but instead he loves to eat with friends who benefit from his support. Tiki maintains a posture of respect and kindness wherever he is. He is a model to us all, and he is a worthy recipient of this recognition!

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**Student Name:** Isabella Flores

**School:** El Diamante High School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Zachary Brown

**Statement:**

Isabella has made a profoundly positive impact on the students, staff and myself here at school. She is currently enrolled in our Agriculture Mechanics Pathway at EDHS where I serve as her ag teacher. She is truly a responsible, determined, courageous and kind young lady. She has a positive, "can do" attitude and is always thoughtful of her peers and adults. She is a punctual, hard working student. She does not let others' decisions sway her from her ability to pursue success.

She has been a leader at the school farm by encouraging other students and demonstrating great leadership and responsibility by doing a great job of feeding, exercising and training her lambs. She has helped other students care for their lambs when the opportunity arises. She spends about 12-14 hours per week at the farm in these duties. Another item to mention is that she helps at her mother's day care by tutoring, feeding and playing with the children.



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**Student Name:** Luke Hopper

**School:** Elbow Creek Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Shay Williams-Hopper

**Statement:**

Luke has taken on the responsibility of caring for our pets at home on a daily basis. He is responsible for feeding our dog, cats, rabbit, and goats. He rarely has to be asked to go out and take care of his chores, he knows when they need to be fed and stays on top of it. He also is really cautious, making sure that their food and water bowls are clean each day. Luke is also very quick to come home from school and get started on his homework to get it completed without a fight. He has learned that if he gets his work done right after school, he has more time for activities he likes to do like wrestling.

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**Student Name:** Gabriella

**School:** Four Creeks Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Elvira Navarro

**Statement:**

Gabriella has been a delight to meet this year as a new student in our school. She quickly introduced herself and made sure I knew I could count on her to help me out in the library when needed. She enjoys "reporting" to duty when she can and is eager to learn our library services. She shines when she is helping students search and check out books in the library.

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**Student Name:** Oliviana Leon

**School:** Global Learning Charter School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Melisa De Leon Duarte

**Statement:**

Words will never be enough to express the level of kindness and empathy that Oliviana Leon possesses. Her words and actions have forever shaped the culture of our entire class. Every day she helps to keep things clean and organized and supports me with our cleanup. But her level of care extends beyond this. When she sees someone struggling with a task, especially class jobs, she does not take over. Instead, she coaches them, gives them tips, supports them, and then stands by their side to encourage them. When a classmate has had a rough morning and is filled with tears, Oliviana is the first one to greet them at the door. She will then walk them to our gray comfy chair, bring them a stuffed animal, embrace them, and remind them that they are loved. Additionally, Oliviana is the master of encouraging and inspiring others to care for one another. Thanks to her, we have a new class routine. Whenever two or more kiddos work together to accomplish a task, they place their hands together and cheer, "Go Team!" Her actions and work will forever leave a lasting impact on this year's Kinders.

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**Student Name:** Alexa Hernandez

**School:** Golden Oak Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Renee Phelps

**Statement:**

Respect is clearly visible in all that Alexa participates in throughout the school day. It is seen in her behavior, attitude, and in her actions towards peers and staff. She listens patiently and respectfully to those with whom she works, even when not everyone agrees. She tries to see others' points of view, not forcing hers upon others. She works hard to complete all of her work which shows respect for herself. Alexa is an awesome role model for respect.

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**Student Name:** Caden Lawrance  
**School:** Golden West High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Shay Williams-Hopper

**Statement:**

Caiden broke his foot at the first football game of the year, but he has not let that deter him from attending every practice and game to cheer on his team! He also is putting in the work needed to get back on the field.

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**Student Name:** Andrew Graim-Gomez  
**School:** Goshen Elementary School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Sarah Van Dermyden

**Statement:**

Andrew always has a huge smile on his face and is sure to greet teachers with their name. He is always willing to help his teacher clean-up after an activity without needing to be asked. He helps his friends stay on task, and he shares his learning with the class. The thing that impresses me most about Andrew is that he is really good at finding the kids who are shy or alone and inviting them to come and play with him. He makes sure everyone is included, welcomed, and wanted. Andrew truly is a caring student.



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**Student Name:** Arnulfo Rodriguez  
**School:** Highland Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Amanda Bennett

**Statement:**

Arnulfo demonstrates responsibility each and every day. He is dependable and I can always count on him to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. He completes all his classwork and homework. He is responsible when it comes to his classroom job and takes it very seriously. Arnulfo always does what is expected of him and on the rare occasion that he forgets to do something, he takes consequences for his actions. I am very proud of this responsible Husky!

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**Student Name:** Nayeli  
Ramos-Castaneda  
**School:** Houston Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Henry Allen Ralston

**Statement:**

Nayeli Ramos-Castaneda is the one to trust with just about everything. I have seen Nayeli make promises to her friends, and as busy as she is with the sixth grade curriculum and her homework, she has made good on those promises. With all of the work she has had to complete, Nayeli still found time to make her friends the Rainbow Loomed Critters that they asked for.

Nayeli is one of those students that if an emergency were to come up, I could hand her my classroom keys and she would retrieve whatever I needed her to get and bring it right back to me. I would never have to worry about her taking something that was not hers or changing her scores in my grade book, or even change test answers on someone she did not care for all that much. That is why I often ask Nayeli to assist me whether it is passing out papers or slices of pizza. Trust me! You can trust Nayeli!

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**Student Name:** Brooklyn McDonald  
**School:** La Joya Middle School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Bailey Austerman

**Statement:**

Brooklyn is a role model student! He is a hard worker, kind to others, and shows great responsibility. He is the type of young man that sets a high standard for himself and all of those around him.

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**Student Name:** Samantha Messier

**School:** La Sierra Independent Study,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Rhonda Hash

**Statement:**

I am nominating Samatha Messier a 9th grader at La Sierra Independent Study. Samantha has demonstrated compassion and empathy for others at a global level. Samantha is aware of what is going on globally. She is able to look at both sides and remain kind and considerate if others do not share her view. She understands the value of being an active listener. She listens with an open mind to get a better understanding of what an individual is going through. If a group is sharing how they feel, she will research what the group's purpose is, to get a better understanding of what the group represents. Samantha is able to reach out to others and learn from them. She is able to express gratitude for what others have shared with her, by acknowledging the support and kindness that others have shared with her to make her a better person.

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**Student Name:** Rafael Castillo

**School:** Linwood Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Suzanne Mosley

**Statement:**

Rafael always demonstrates outstanding citizenship at school. He works hard by always trying his best in the classroom and is a friend to all out on the playground. He enjoys participating in all of our lessons and shares great ideas with the class. He is such a wonderful role model to others! Outside of school, Rafael is involved in martial arts. It is a pleasure to have him in class.

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**Student Name:** Tyler Valentine

**School:** Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Teasha Vasquez

**Statement:**

Tyler is so helpful and very conscientious about the environment. I admire his willingness to get dirty and stick to his commitments



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**Student Name:** Frankie Salas

**School:** Mineral King Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Gloria Mattos

**Statement:**

*Frankie Salas* goes out of his way to help others and always has a kind word for all his peers. This student has consistently walked with another student who has a physical disability from the classroom to the learning center. Frankie makes sure his friend does not walk alone and does not have any problems navigating the campus. He also can be seen checking in on his younger siblings in the morning making sure they know where they are going. It has been a pleasure watching this student grow in his academics and social abilities to make others feel included over the past three years.

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**Student Name:** Dante Mendivil

**School:** Mountain View Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Vanessa Gonzalez

**Statement:**

Dante has been working very hard to become an ideal student, though learning a new language in the dual program has proven to be a challenge, Dante proves to be a model student for all his peers. He is always ready to learn. He is responsible for his learning by participating at carpet time, doing his task at centers, and working hard to decode in a new language during our reading group. I am proud of the student Dante is becoming and look forward to seeing him continue to grow.

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**Student Name:** Alex Elick

**School:** Mt. Whitney High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Gene Mendes

**Statement:**

Alex is a leading member of the Sportsmanship Action Team (SAT) and continues to model the Pillar of Citizenship. The SAT youth council work together to promote positive change on and off the field of play by utilizing the Six Pillars of Character. The SAT planned a youth conference for high school athletes to promote sportsmanship this past September. Alex was a great co-facilitator in his workshop session where he put in hours of work to make sure students walked away with the correct and accurate information. He continues to demonstrate what a great role model he is to his peers and young people in our county. Alex cares about his community and is a pleasure to work with.

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**Student Name:** Sebastian Munoz Garcia

**School:** Oak Grove Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Sage Mosleh

**Statement:**

Sebastian comes to school everyday with a positive attitude towards learning and is kind and respectful to his classmates and teachers. He is always very polite when speaking and is very considerate of how he treats others. Sebastian is very respectful and knows how to talk to and treat his fellow classmates. Even when another student became aggressive towards Sebastian, he stayed composed and deescalated the situation by staying respectful towards the other student.

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**Student Name:** Ethan Rojas

**School:** Pinkham Elementary School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Tammy Crosland

***Statement:***

Ethan comes to school ready to learn. He shows responsibility in so many ways. He is organized at school and is always prepared to learn. He listens, follows directions during class, and consistently puts out his best effort, never giving up. He is making academic progress and knows what it takes to be a learner. He is also kind to others and cares about people. He is a great example for others.

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**Student Name:** Sawyer Sowers

**School:** Redwood High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Travis Roebuck

**Statement:**

I have had the pleasure of getting to know one of our new 9th grade students, Sawyer Sowers. Sawyer is a responsible leader who has gained respect from his peers in both classes I have him in. Sawyer excels in physical education and health class. Sawyer is the first one to motivate his classmates through hard work, and positive comments. His integrity is a model for consistency and encourages performance throughout Physical Education. He is currently an honor roll student, whose success in the classroom is reflected by his accomplishments in his extracurricular activities. He has taken on a mentorship role in my health class with students who are struggling with our curriculum. His leadership and integrity are why he is highly respected by his classmates and teachers. He is an inspiration to his peers. Thank you for considering Sawyer for the CHARACTER COUNTS! recognition.



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**Student Name:** Alexis Diaz De Leon

**School:** Ridgeview Middle School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Senait Berhe

**Statement:**

Alexis is one of the kindest students and not just to adults, but also to her peers. She makes all students feel included in the class and looks out for those that have difficulty for numerous reasons (being absent, language barrier, or lack of interest). She is also the student who will stay back to help a classmate or a teacher reset their room for the next class. I cannot say enough great things about Alexis and the great model she is for kindness and integrity!

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**Student Name:** Sophia Aranzazu

**School:** Royal Oaks Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Shelbi Alferd

**Statement:**

Sophia has shown nothing but the utmost respect so far during this school year. She is incredibly respectful to her classmates and teacher. If we are in class and she agrees or disagrees with a student, she will respectfully acknowledge that student and explain her stance. At only eight years old Sophia has been through a lot in her life, more than any student her age should have to go through. However, she comes to class with the brightest smile and most respectful attitude. She is first to raise her hand to ask a question or first to volunteer to help a classmate or teacher.

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**Student Name:** Carolina  
Rodriguez-Sanchez

**School:** Sequoia High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Teasha Vasquez

**Statement:**

Carolina works hard in the classroom, she listens when she is given direction, she is always helpful, honest and someone to be trusted.

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**Student Name:** Annabel Sanchez

**School:** Shannon Ranch Elementary  
School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Taylor Hendershot

**Statement:**

In the time that I have been able to teach Annabel, I have seen a child that I know will go on to do great things. Not because she is motivated and works hard, which are some great qualities that she possesses, but because she has a kind heart that she uses daily to serve and support her classmates and her teachers. The work she produces goes above and beyond what is asked of her. I believe that Annabel exemplifies what any teacher would look for in a student. She works with others for cooperative learning, coaching them to bring out their best qualities so that they can excel in their education. Annabel is not just self-motivated, she is motivated by the want, the need, and the desire to make this world a better place. She wants to connect with others in all walks of her life. When initially getting to teach Annabel, I noticed that she was quite shy, keeping to herself. This wasn't a negative quality, this was just the way Annabel was. After getting to talk with her throughout our days learning together or from spending some extra time chatting after school, I realized that this student was one of the kindest and most joyful people I have ever met. She has had a tremendous impact on our classroom. She is consistently viewed as one of the top leaders in my class by her peers, going to her and asking for guidance because they know when she speaks, they will learn if only they listen. She adds to the conversation and facilitates discussion as she continues to support everyone in their learning not because she has to, but because she wants to make this classroom a better place for learning. She makes my classroom a place for others to grow into the best versions of themselves. She challenges me to be the best teacher that I can possibly be with her questions, with her work, with her thoughts, her ideas, and with any student, in my opinion, there is no greater gift. This once shy girl has been transformed into someone who I am honored to say "She is my student. And I am truly blessed because I get the opportunity to teach her every day." She is sometimes the only bit of sunshine in my classroom and students like her are the reason that I got into the teaching profession. She is destined for greatness in all that she does and whatever the future holds for her. With Annabel Sanchez, I can guarantee that this world will become a better place because of her influence in it.

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**Student Name:** Zach Hofer

**School:** St. Paul's School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominators:** Lea Maryanow and  
Jessica Power

**Statement:**

Zach Hofer is the most polite student a teacher could hope for. Not only is he extremely polite to teachers, he is also kind and patient with his classmates. On several occasions, I had the honor of witnessing how respectful and caring he treats his younger sister who goes to the same school. It is rare to see siblings hug each other in public. It is apparent that Zach cares a lot about the people around him.

Zach Hofer is an incredible example of what it means to live a life of character. He is kind and caring towards his peers and teachers. He goes out of his way to make others feel included. He works hard in the classroom to learn and grow academically. He is thoughtful when speaking; always using manners and a tone of gratitude.

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**Student Name:** Delanny Flores  
**School:** Stone Corral School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Trustworthiness

**Nominator:** Susana Haro

**Statement:**

Delanny Flores is a student who exemplifies being trustworthy. She has shown on multiple occasions that she can be depended upon, relied upon and stay committed to her word. This year she did an act of good conscience which supports exactly why she is someone who is TRUE BLUE. Delanny one day happened to have lost money on the playground and was frantically asking around if anybody had picked it up, but no one turned anything in. A few days go by and Delanny steps in my office and says "Miss. Haro, I found money out in the playground and unlike the person who never returned my money I am doing the right thing and not keeping what is not mine." I praised her for her integrity, honesty, and courage for doing the right thing when no one was looking.



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**Student Name:** Benson Saechao  
**School:** Sycamore Valley Academy,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Citizenship

**Nominator:** Kelly De Lemos

**Statement:**

In our classroom, we champion the principle of "kuleana"--a Hawaiian word that means responsibility. Each member of our classroom has the "kuleana" to work hard to meet academic requirements and grow as a scholar. Equally important, however, is our commitment to grow as a member of our classroom, school, and community. We do this by finding ways to serve others wherever there is a need. Mr. Benson is, on his own, an outstanding scholar, who excels in his academic pursuits. What I admire most about him though, is his genuine willingness to help others. When a classmate is struggling, he is patient and thoughtful in offering assistance.

When someone is absent, he is ready to assume any extra tasks to care for our classroom. He is a valued member of our classroom 'ohana (family) and is well on his way to becoming a responsible, conscientious, and trustworthy citizen in our larger community.

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**Student Name:** Aden Romero

**School:** University Preparatory High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Jennifer Becerra

**Statement:**

Aden exemplifies the characteristic of responsibility as he is always prepared for class. He will preview material in order to prepare for the next session and comes to class with questions related to upcoming topics to better prepare. He regularly checks class assignments and agendas to ensure he completes all tasks, prior to their due date. He consistently exemplifies the expectations of a scholar student and serves as a role model to his peers. He is an active participant and adds great insight to class discussions.

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**Student Name:** Grace Gocke

**School:** Valley Life Charter School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Jessica Uribe

**Statement:**

It is so difficult to choose one pillar to describe Grace as she is an example of every single one of these pillars. When I think of Grace, I think of a caring individual whose mission in life is for everyone to feel cared about and a part of something greater. Grace believes that it is important to be kind to everyone and to show concern for others' well-being. Grace is constantly saying, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." She is a person who will go above and beyond to help a peer when they are having a tough day even if that means she does not get to participate in an activity she loves. A person's feelings are always most important to Grace. Grace builds relationships with those around her to ensure that they feel a sense of belonging. An example of this is that she is sensitive to other's feelings and will go out of her way to support a person in need. I have witnessed Grace go out of her way to help solve a social conflict in the classroom or on the playground because she wants everyone to get along and have fun. Grace consistently prioritizes helping others who need support. She is a selfless young person who exudes kindness with every breath she takes. I had the honor of working with Grace on our Owl Student Body, and I have not met another student who is as caring and responsible as she is. She is the epitome of a leader in many ways. I am so proud of her and her amazing compassion for other individuals! Any person who meets her is truly blessed.

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**Student Name:** Max Lopez

**School:** Valley Oak Middle School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Brittany Gonzalez-Menchaca

**Statement:**

Max is a wonderful student. He is very respectful in the way that he talks and treats both staff and students. He actively participates, and is also involved in WEB which helps students get accustomed to the school and help with events at the school. He is always willing to be a help, and makes himself available!

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**Student Name:** Paul Pedraza

**School:** Veva Blunt Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** Marta Pree

**Statement:**

Paul is a kind young man and a hard worker. We have had two new students to our school, and he has gone out of his way to make them feel accepted in our classroom. He completes his assignments quickly and accurately and helps others when he sees a need. I have greatly appreciated his caring and helpful disposition.



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**Student Name:** Addisyn Cox

**School:** Visalia Technical Early College  
High School, Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Travis Wyrick

**Statement:**

Addisyn Cox, Addi for short, is a senior at Visalia Technical Early College a charter School of Visalia Unified School District. The term responsible does not begin to describe Addi's Character. As a freshman, Addi wanted to work on the school farm and be involved with the daily tasks involving the livestock, facilities and fields. She didn't know that her efforts as a freshman would lead to her being a highly trusted and relied upon individual at VTEC. As COVID was shutting down schools in the county, she became one of the few students counted on to help feed, care and manage the school livestock. She became trusted with livestock schedules, crop watering, and assisted advisors with the daily demands of a school farm and campus facilities while no one else was available. Over time she has become a leader on campus, taking charge as the School Farm Student Manager, raising livestock for the Tulare County Fair and keeping up the maintenance on the farm's equipment. She helps to oversee the maintenance demands of the tractors and other equipment on campus with the supervision of her advisors. From the Principle down to the freshman class, Addi is well known and recognized on campus for all of her efforts and VTEC owes her a debt of gratitude for being an student of character that exemplifies responsibility.



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**Student Name:** Eduardo Hernandez  
**School:** Washington Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Jacqueline Vang

**Statement:**

Eduardo is a student that is always doing what he is supposed to be doing. He is always on task, and always doing his best work. I can also count on Eduardo to be doing the right thing. He comes into class ready to learn. He is always willing to help others and is a team player.

Eduardo is always responsible and does the right thing when no one is looking. When he is struggling with a concept, he is always asking for clarification and ensuring he has all the directions for an assignment.

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**Student Name:** Olivia Vargas

**School:** Willow Glen Elementary School,  
Visalia

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Ray Cartagena

**Statement:**

Olivia Vargas has been in Leadership for 2 years. I have had the privilege of being her adviser. She attends every meeting and workday. She even comes and does work on non-meeting/work days. Whatever she is responsible for, you can be sure it will be of the highest quality. She is always striving to include everyone. This is demonstrated with her "Hellos" to Staff, her fellow classmates (regardless of grade), and even visitors on our campus. When it looks like someone needs help, she is always there to lend a helping hand. Olivia is also in our HEART after-school program. Her long days on Willow Glen only affords her more opportunities to demonstrate her leadership, responsibility, and her inclusivity. All grade levels often interact in HEART, and you can see just how much she is loved from TK-8th graders. Lastly, she came to Willow Glen because we are a deaf and hard-of-hearing school; she wanted to be a part of something bigger than herself. As a result of her wonderful attributes, Olivia was voted as Willow Glen Leadership's President. I am confident she will do an awesome job.

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**Student Name:** Timothy Gowett

**School:** Castle Rock Elementary School,  
Woodlake

**Pillar:** Caring

**Nominator:** T. J. Ryan

**Statement:**

Timothy Gowett is a fifth-grade student at Castle Rock Elementary in Woodlake, CA. Tim was recently voted by his classmates to be selected as student of the month for his classroom. His teacher, Ms. Figueroa, stated that Tim is a natural leader in class and he is respected by his classmates for his contributions. One of Tim's peers wrote that Tim partners up with him when their partners are not present. Another student said, "Tim is not afraid to answer and is never going to say no to anyone that needs help." Tim has shown collaboration skills in all subjects by helping others, communicating with others in solving math problems, and engaging in rich debates with his book club.

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**Student Name:** Niamaya Tienda

**School:** Francis J. White Learning Center, Woodlake

**Pillar:** Respect

**Nominator:** Erin Ralls

**Statement:**

Niamaya exudes the character trait of Respect. The second week of school we received a new student in our class. This student had only attended school on zoom last year in kindergarten and had not been with kids their age. Niamaya took it upon herself to be helpful from the first day without being asked. This student needed help with organizational skills (getting the right book out, finding page numbers, keeping track of their supplies), listening skills (she would repeat directions, help them to get to the carpet and back when the direction was given), and help with work. This student did not always make it easy on her and wasn't always kind with their words, but she treated them as I would expect she would have wanted to be treated every single day, with kindness, care, compassion, patience and respect. I have been impressed with how Niamaya treats all the students in our class and how respectful she is with adults as well.

She definitely should be recognized for her respectful character.

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**Student Name:** Paige Perez

**School:** Woodlake High School, Woodlake

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Carmita Pena

**Statement:**

I would like to nominate Paige Perez. Paige is the Key Club senior class representative among a long list of other leadership positions. This young lady is the exemplar of responsibility. As a Key Club officer and member, Paige is someone I can count on when she signs up for an event. She is also very heavily active in other clubs, serving as the Future Farmers of America (FFA) president. Her involvement is one like no other, yet she manages to fulfill her commitments.

Paige is one of the few students who will make sure to go out of her way to let me know if she can't make a meeting or event. She is one of the most responsible students on campus, making her someone that staff and students trust.

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**Student Name:** Vanessa Martinez

**School:** Woodlake Valley Middle School,  
Woodlake

**Pillar:** Respect

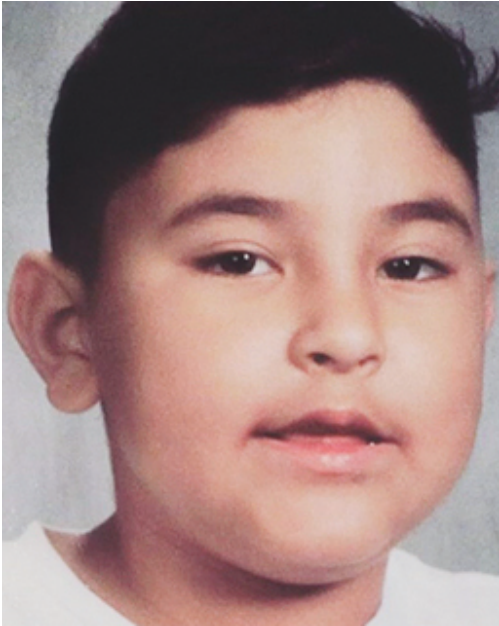
**Nominator:** Brianne Underwood

**Statement:**

Vanessa Martinez is a student who goes out of her way to brighten the day of other people. She always has a smile on her face and never has a negative attitude toward anything. She shows respect to others by helping them when they need support, doing tasks without being asked to do them, and contributing to the classroom through academic discussions using positive language. Her kindness and respectfulness is exemplary and a guiding beacon for others to follow.



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**Student Name:** David Meraz

**School:** AcCel Yettem Learning  
Center, Yettem

**Pillar:** Responsibility

**Nominator:** Debbie Michaelian

**Statement:**

David Meraz demonstrates the trait of responsibility by taking ownership of participating in and completing his academics. He readily engages in all lessons and activities with a cheerful demeanor and a willingness to learn.