

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



**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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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

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**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.