



# **Smyrna School District**

## **Essay Contest**

**2009**

**Adult and Student Winners**

A decorative border of pencils surrounds the text. At the top, three pencils are arranged horizontally. On the left and right sides, pencils are arranged vertically. At the bottom, three pencils are arranged horizontally. In the bottom right corner, a pencil holder contains several pencils.

## I ♥ The Smyrna School District

The ninth essay contest to support the five Smyrna School District core values of *Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion* was held during the month of January 2009. There were two categories of winners: adults (18 and over) and students (K through Grade 12). During “I Love the Smyrna School District” day on February 28, 2009, first, second and third place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments.

In addition, during the essay contest, the Smyrna School District honored Charles and Ruth Williams for their distinguished service to the Smyrna School District. Mr. Williams is a former Smyrna School District superintendent, and Mrs. Williams is a former Smyrna High School English teacher. Mr. Brooks Banta was honored for his service to our community as a member of Levy Court. We are indeed fortunate to enjoy their service and dedication to our schools and community.

The 2009 writing contest focused on the value of *Responsibility*. Hundreds of touching and heartfelt essays were submitted. This booklet contains the essays of first, second and third place winners at all levels.

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

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

Debbie Wicks  
Superintendent

For the ninth annual “I Love the Smyrna School District” essay contest, students and adults were asked to write about *Responsibility*, a core district value. Contest rules and a writing prompt were disseminated to students (via their teachers) and the community in January 2009. The writing prompt was created to mirror the type of prompt students might encounter on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) writing tests given each spring.

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

### ESSAY CONTEST

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

*Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. This includes being responsible for your actions as a family member, teacher, student and citizen. You can demonstrate your responsibility through service to others and self-control.*

Think about someone that you believe is a responsible person. Tell in detail why you chose this particular person, what specific qualities this person possesses, and give specific examples of how he/she demonstrates responsibility.

**ADULT WINNERS:** First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. Winners and runners-up were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 28, 2009).

**STUDENT WINNERS:** First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners were selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. All winners were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 28, 2009).

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Dad, it is an honor for me to be a part of this ceremony that is recognizing you as a leader who exemplifies “Responsibility” in this community. When I think of all the things you have done to support and nurture your family as well as give endless hours of your time to the citizens in the Smyrna-Clayton area, I am filled with such pride and admiration. You are an outstanding father and responsible role model in the community who continues to give and have never wavered during your 45 years of service.

You embody the word “Responsibility.” You follow through on your commitments. Time and time again you have made a pledge to your family and your community that you would strive to improve “the quality of life.” Your service in the home and community has laid the groundwork for others to model.

Here are just a few ways you have shown you are a great dad with your commitment to me and I want to thank you.

- Picking me up and taking me in the ocean when I was too little to go on my own
- Cooking steaks on the grill and roasting marshmallows in our backyard in Clayton
- Standing by me when I couldn’t put that “old car puzzle” together (I mean, really, who would have thought an 8-year old could put that car together anyway? I had never seen that kind of car before and you were the first to admit that!)
- Having a catch (and me missing it)...remember the ball going through the shed window...(Ouch!)
- Decorating the foyer for Halloween and scaring all the kids with the sounds you made (our house was a real hit because of you and I loved it too!)
- Eating raw oysters on the back steps at the beach house
- Teaching me about the “birds and the bees”
- Getting me an apartment when I was in college so I could have my own space
- Sending me little notes when I was in college to wish me good luck and telling me how much you loved me (I’ve kept every one of them.)
- Teleporting those infamous “quanti” looks so I’d be sure to do well on an exam (and who cared if no one else knew that a “quanti” look was...We believed in it!)
- Being there when I graduated from the University of Delaware
- Attending the Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities ceremony when I earned my master’s degree
- Slipping me \$20 whenever you got the chance so I’d have money in my pocket
- Being there for the birth of both of my sons and allowing me to honor you in the greatest way by giving my first born your namesake
- Running to Hockessin whenever I’ve needed you...no matter the time of day (nothing has ever been too much for you)...You’d do anything for Daddy’s Little Girl
- Giving so much of your time to help me secure a beach house
- Listening to me when I needed to be heard and
- Taking good care of Mom---“You make a good team!”

Your public service is also remarkable. You have shown great leadership and “Responsibility” by serving your constituents each and every day and I am so proud of you.

Your involvement includes:

- 12 years, Kent County Levy Court Commissioner (president for 2 years and now in 3<sup>rd</sup> year as president)
- 14 years, Clayton Town Council
- 10 years, Smyrna School Board
- 4 years, Kent County Regional Planning Commission
- Past president, Delaware Association of Counties
- Honorary Life Member Clayton Fire Company
- Past president, Smyrna-Clayton Jaycees
- Member, Smyrna-Clayton Heritage Association
- Life member, Duck Creek Historical Society
- Member, Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association
- Member, John Bassett Moore/Smyrna High School Alumni Association

The list could go on forever, but I hope I've made my point. You are without a doubt the best dad, leader and role model a girl could dream of having, and I'm just so lucky because you're my DAD. I continue to learn from you and I hope this community continues to see how committed you are to preserving the land and improving "the quality of life."

What a wonderful legacy you are giving to this generation and generations to come. I know how much you have positively impacted my life and the lives of my sons with your endless commitment and service. Can't you just hear the stories around the Thanksgiving table or a campfire that will be passed down to all the "Little Bantas yet to come...(Did you know what my great, great, great grandfather Brooks Banta did...???)

I love you Dad.

Karen Banta-Burnett



Thank you very much for recognizing our parents today during your "I Love Smyrna School District" celebration. As you know, our parents devoted their careers to the Smyrna School District; and they both truly love all aspects of the district—its students, teachers, staff, and administrators; its alumni; and the supportive communities of Smyrna, Clayton, and Kenton.

As you prepare to honor today's students of the district for their own acts of responsibility, we'd like to thank our parents for their love and support and to let you know a little bit about how they have demonstrated responsibility. We'll focus on three areas—personal, professional, and social responsibility.

Our parents have taken personal responsibility for the choices they have made. Mom and Dad moved to Smyrna more than 60 years ago and have been married for 58 years. Prior to moving



to Smyrna, our father lived in Scranton, Pennsylvania; and our mother lived in Milford, Delaware. Dad attended the University of Scranton and Mom attended the University of Delaware. Before our dad graduated from college, he was a member of the U. S. Army, serving his country in World War II.

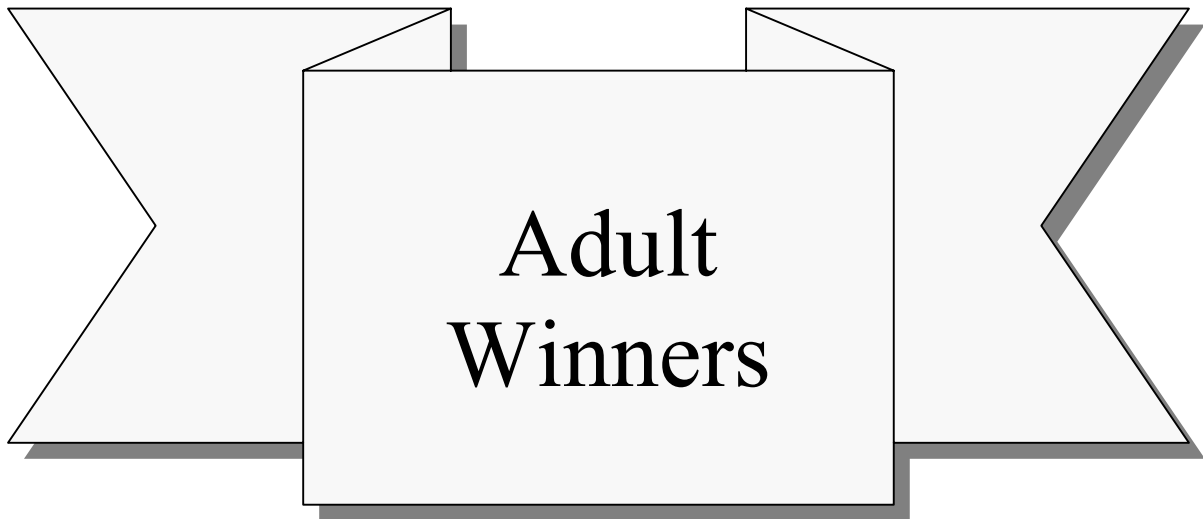
Our parents spent their entire professional careers in education. Mom was an English teacher for more than 20 years and set high expectations for all of her students. Some of you in the audience may have had her as a teacher; and, if you did, you know how hard she pushed all of her students to be the best they could be. Dad began his career as an English teacher, too; and then moved into administration—first as the high school principal, then as the administrative assistant, and finally as the superintendent of the Smyrna School District. It was during Dad's tenure as superintendent that Smyrna High School was built, and the John Bassett Moore Middle School was renovated. When our parents were first married, Dad was an assistant football coach, and he brought home the dirty uniforms so that Mom could wash them. Later he became the athletic director and after his retirement from the Smyrna School District worked for the Henlopen Conference helping to make schedules for all of the sports teams and ordering equipment and supplies for the downstate high schools. Our mother was the founder of the Spy Glass publication, a sponsor of school plays, and was the chairman of the English department.

Our parents have also always been involved in the community—whether it was volunteering for a school activity, working for the Lions Club or the Century Club, and serving in a variety of positions for St. Polycarp's Church. In fact, our parents were part of a group of parishioners who helped to get St. Polycarp's Church building many years ago.

On a much personal level, our parents have not only been great role models for both of us, but for our children as well. In every developmental stage of their four granddaughters' lives, our parents have been supportive of their endeavors, whether it has been attending music or sporting activities, helping them find materials needed for school projects, or donating to school fundraisers. We are very proud of our parents and very glad that you are honoring them today.

Finally, we hope you have a great recognition ceremony this afternoon, and congratulations to all of the students in attendance for your demonstrated acts of responsibility.

Karen Williams Miller, SHS Class of 1973  
Kevin Williams, SHS Class of 1975.



In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells a story about a man who was traveling along a highway and was set upon by thieves. The thieves stripped him of his clothing and belongings, wounded him, and left him for dead.

Two men who were responsible for helping this man in trouble refused. They passed him by on the other side of the road. Then a good Samaritan going the same way saw the wounded man and stopped. He showed compassion and treated the man's wounds, then spent his own money to take him to a place where he could recuperate.

My neighbor, Mr. Daniel Hall, fits the description of the good Samaritan to the letter. I have known Danny and his family for about three years. In November, 2007, within an eleven-day period, my wife endured two back surgeries. Her surgeries left her confined to a wheelchair unable to walk. A short time later, I had back surgery which left me unable to do very much.

One morning I got up extra early with the intention of mowing the grass. When I stepped outside I saw that the grass had already been mowed. I wasn't sure who had done such a good deed until about a week later when I saw Danny mowing my grass. I went out and told him he didn't need to do that. He nodded okay. But from that time on whenever he cut his grass he cut mine also.

It seems no matter how early I get up to take my trashcan to the curb Danny always beats me to it. I thought I was putting on a good front, pretending that I had everything under control. Danny's kind and thoughtful nature allowed him to see through the façade. I needed all the help I could get; he sensed that and responded to me.

Danny told me on more than one occasion to let him know if I needed anything at all. When he learned that I was going to have my surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, he offered to drive me there. While I was there he checked with my wife to see if she needed a ride down there to bring me back home.

It is difficult for me to let someone be of service to me because it's just not something that I am accustomed to. Even though I have tried on several occasions to show my appreciation to Danny, I know there is nothing in this world I can do to express my gratitude.

As a Delaware State Trooper assigned to the police academy, Danny proves his responsibility every day. He is a responsible family man and neighbor.

*Rev. Earl Fowlkes*  
Gold Award, Adult

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As I thought about the word responsibility, my good friend and neighbor, Mr. Henry Jones, immediately came to mind.

Henry is just a regular everyday fellow who is friendly, ambitious, caring, talented, and family focused. When you meet him for the first time, you get the feeling that you've known him for many years. He has a warm personality and is interested in what others have to say. He has been blessed with the gift of gab and is never at a loss for conversation. You never know if he has a funny story to tell or if he wants to give his view on current events.

He is a very unselfish individual who gladly shares his time and talents with others. Here are just a few examples of how his outstanding qualities benefit others:

Friendly—Long before we officially moved into the neighborhood, Henry proved himself to be a good neighbor. While the builders were constructing our home, he kept a watchful eye. He was so concerned one day that he came into the house and closed the windows that the builders accidentally left open.

Ambitious—He has a great sense of commitment to his community. Several years ago, we experienced a problem with water accumulating and standing for several days after a heavy rainfall. It was Henry who called around to learn the proper channels for registering our complaint. He then shared the information and encouraged other neighbors to call and so the problem was resolved.

Caring—Several of the neighbors, including my husband, plant small vegetable gardens each spring. Thanks to Henry and his automatic tiller, they can all plant and enjoy their gardens without the rigorous work of digging with hoes and shovels.

Talented—When my mother's seasoned automobile was involved in a fender bender, Henry searched around until he was able to find a used fender for the car. He then brought the fender home and personally repaired the car for her.

Family Focused—Although Henry extends himself for his neighbors and friends, his family comes first. He is a devoted and loving husband, father, pop-pop, and uncle. Henry keeps his wife's car running smooth and looking good. His driveway is often loaded with cars of family members who have come to visit. Some days you might look out and see him playing catch with a few of his grandchildren.

There are many other examples that I could share, but I think you get the idea. Mr. Henry Jones is a busy man who always has time to reach out to others.

*Beverly Fowlkes*

Silver Award, Adult

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Responsibility—many have responsibilities; few of us are held accountable for them. Grace Howard reminds me of the “roots”: response and ability. She jumped into a new task recently as treasurer for a political candidate without regard for remuneration. Grace desired the experience of learning new things—from computer spreadsheets to the fine details of state election laws. As

part of her civic duty she put her honesty on the public line. Despite complex reporting issues, she filed financial disclosures even when not required, and avoided obvious conflicts of interest by refusing financial support from those her candidate would be obligated to audit when elected.

She mains committed to helping her neighbors, her quilting guild, church and family. She represents the best of a responsible adult—she is responsive, able, and stands accountable. Hooray for Grace.

*Stephanie Steckel*

Bronze Award, Adult

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Responsibility—it doesn’t always connote a positive burden. However, Wills Passmore delivers the goods on the moral, legal, and mental accountability of a great, responsible Delaware citizen. He is a retired dairy farmer. He was one of the first to place his almost 600-acre farm bordering the Delaware River in the state’s conservatorship program. He always was supportive of the employees of his farm and ice creamery. Many today still visit him.

He was for many years involved with the Grange and the Agricultural Museum. When the latter had recent problems he spent the time to help understand the issues and guide it to financial stability.

He has lead the opening and maintenance of the historic Appoquinimink Meeting House and welcomes all worshippers with a warm handshake and smile. His appearance may be “salt of the earth,” but his heart and mind are anything but common for this quiet Quaker.

He is a rare individual. I am proud to call him friend.

*Steven Artz*

Bronze Award, Adult



*Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4*

I am responsible by taking out the recycling. Bella is responsible when she helped me with the recycling box in the classroom.

*Jenna Carroll*

First Place, Kindergarten

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My mom is responsible. She helps me clean my room.

*Gianna Hannum*

Second Place, Kindergarten

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Gracie is responsible. She helps me read a book.

*Emma McDowell*

Third Place, Kindergarten

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I am going to tell you about a responsible person. My mom Daisha is responsible because she cleans the awesome house. My mom helps me do my cool homework. My mom helps me clean my nice room. My mom helps baby RJ fold the laundry. My mom is so responsible because she loves me.

*Kailani Summers*

First Place, Grade 1

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Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. I think Logan is responsible. He remembers his show and tell. He listens to his teachers. One way he shows responsibility for me is when we play video games he cleans them up. Others should be like Logan because he is helpful. Logan is responsible because he is a very helpful person.

*Kobe Conomon*

Second Place, Grade 1

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It is very important to be responsible. My mommy shows responsibility by cooking for me and by coming to all my softball games. Everyone should be like my mommy because all moms should cook and come to sports for kids.

*Paige Kirk*

Third Place, Grade 1

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My name is Tyler and I'm writing about a responsible person. Do you know who I'm writing about? It's my dad, and guess what—he's a police officer! Well he used to be. He still works with police though.

My dad has been a police officer for thirty-five years. Now that's a long time! He made it all the way to captain! My dad's name is John. He has blue eyes and black hair. I think my dad is responsible because he helped the community in many ways like saving people's lives and other things like that. My dad is also responsible by doing his duty, persevering in his work, and doing his work any chance he gets. Guess what? This one time when we were on vacation he did his work and didn't get to have any fun. He didn't have to do that; but he did. Most people wouldn't do that. Do you think your dad would do that?

These are the things my dad does. Now don't get me wrong, but I think that's showing lots of responsibility. I think the world would be a better place if everybody showed responsibility.

*Tyler Yeomans*

First Place, Grade 2

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Guess who is the most responsible person I know? My dad is—that's who.

He takes such good care of me. He makes sure that I am safe. He also makes sure I have a house to sleep in. He also makes sure we have food, vitamins and water. He gives me love and care. He teaches me to be responsible by taking care of my dog. He teaches me to give the dog a bath and groom him, feed him, and give him water. He makes me be so responsible. He walks my dog and helps me walk him.

Once I was sick with strep throat and could not talk so good. He let me eat two popsicles. He made sure I stayed warm so I didn't get worse.

So that is why my dad is so responsible.

*Kassy Morris*

Second Place, Grade 2

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Today I finally found out who is a responsible person. But no secrets yet—it's a surprise. I will give you a hint—he is a boy.

The person I am writing about is my father because he keeps my school so safe because he is a police officer. My dad makes me feel so safe, and I want to be like him when I grow up so I can protect others like he did. Well as a dad in the house he will help me with feeding my baby sister like how to hold the bottle.

If it was not for my dad, I would not be protected at all. I hope I can grow up to be just like him.

*Autum Wilson*

Third Place, Grade 2

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Today I was watching Danielle in school. She is an incredibly awesome student. She follows all of the five core values, but there is one core value she is AMAZING at. That core value is responsibility! She does all the responsible things anyone could ever do! Those things are: not calling out, finishing her work, and letting the teacher teach.

In the first place, Danielle doesn't call out. Like one time last week we were doing a graded sheet that nobody understood. So they all called out (even I did); everybody but Danielle. She just sat there and raised her hand. So Mrs. Newman explained it to her first. That is so the "bee's knees." I should really stop calling out. Maybe if I stopped I would be more like her! Nobody could be as responsible as Danielle. Nobody in history! Danielle sure is responsible.

Second she always finishes her work. About a month ago we were doing a Holistic test. It was taking a long time for everybody to finish, but Danielle was working diligently and finished it. She was definitely not rushing because she got a 100%. I could not believe it. I can learn from her because I cannot finish my work very quickly. I think I will ask her how. In fact, Danielle is so responsible she won the most responsible person in our class! Wow! I could not believe it. That girl finishes her work quicker than a cheetah can run (by the way they can run 80 mph).

Last but not least Danielle always lets the teacher teach. For example, yesterday we were all speaking while Mrs. Newman was trying to teach (even me again), but Danielle was in her seat trying to listen to Mrs. Newman. I should start letting the teacher teach shouldn't I? I think everyone should be like Danielle in school. Then we would have the best school ever! Wouldn't we? Danielle really wants to learn because she lets the teacher teach.

I wish every kid could be like Danielle. If they were, we would all be the best kids in the world. I bet they would be wondering how that could happen—with a little pixie dust, of course (just kidding.) It could happen if Danielle teaches me to be responsible then we could team up and

teach everybody how to. All they have to do is not call out, finish their work, and let the teacher teach.

*Kaeli Kirk*

First Place, Grade 3

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I've been thinking about people who are responsible and there's an incredibly gargantuan amount, but the most responsible is definitely dad. He does all sorts of things to show he's the best at being it. I will tell you a huge amount of things that make him responsible, what I think and feel about him being responsible, and some specific stories of why he's an extraordinary, responsible person.

First, I'll tell you a massive amount of things about him being responsible. In the morning he fixes me the right amount of food for breakfast. He then helps me find perfect clothes. Next my dad gets himself ready for work. After he's finished, he goes to his office at the Sun Times. He types some stories after he takes pictures of them. A few minutes after my dad gets home he fixes dinner. It's so yummy. You should try it if you get the chance. I'm finished telling you all the things he does to make himself responsible.

Next, I will tell you what I think and feel about my dad being responsible. I think if I follow my father's footsteps, I could be the most responsible person in the world. I think that when I grow up and get married I could be a role model for my kids if I followed my father's footsteps. And if I follow my father's footsteps of responsibility, I would feel like I could do anything. Now you know what I think and feel about my father being responsible.

Now, I will tell you specific stories of how responsible my dad is. One time my brother Robert and I were jumping around and he bumped into me. I hurt my foot and leg. My mother was sleeping so it was my dad's responsibility to help me walk. Another time my seven-month-old brother Everett escaped from his chair. It was my dad's responsibility to put him back. Another time, I woke up late on a school day. It was me and my dad's responsibility to get ready to go to school quickly. Now you know some stories of how my dad is responsible.

So you thought responsible people were rare. Here's one right here and there's probably millions more, but I think my dad is the best. I told you an immense amount of things that make my dad responsible, what I think and feel about my dad being responsible, and some specific stories about how extraordinarily, marvelously, and incredibly responsible is my dad. Oops! Oh no! I forgot I need to do my chores!

*Samuel Mace*

Second Place, Grade 3

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I'm going to tell you about my teacher Miss Wright and how she is responsible. She is responsible by being here at school on time, earning PBS tickets, and making me feel like I'm somebody and not nobody. I thank her for everything she does for me.

First, I'm going to tell you about how she is never later for her job. Miss Wright is never late but in the morning I bet she just wants to sleep in and send a substitute to school to teach us. She loves her students and we know she wouldn't do that. She cares so much about us she comes in and puts up with us from 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. That's a long time to be as patient as she is because if I were her I couldn't put up with everything she does.

Next, she makes sure she gets up in the morning so she can be at the school before 8:00 and she can teach us everything on the third-grade level. Last, she never tells us that her alarm clock didn't go off this morning and she didn't want to come in so she got a substitute for you.

Next, I'm going to talk about how she earns PBS tickets. She shows respect when she gets a PBS ticket. She always says thank you when she is rewarded with a ticket, and she never says give me a ticket or I won't give you a ticket. Last she has eight PBS tickets. That's how outstanding she is and she gets all those tickets from the people of Smyrna Elementary School.

Last, she makes me feel like I'm a somebody and not a nobody. She talks to me and lets me express my feelings with her. That's the best part about her. Also, she tells me it is okay to act sad or shy or even mad. Finally she makes me feel comfortable in her class.

There I told you about my outstanding teacher Miss Wright, how she is never late for school, how she earns tickets, and how she makes me feel like I'm a somebody. I thank her for doing everything she does.

*Taylor Hutson*

Third Place, Grade 3

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People may have a lot of people they think are responsible, but I don't think they have anyone responsible like my brother Sheel. He studies, admits his mistakes, and helps others. They might think that he is responsible too if they read how he's responsible.

First of all, my brother wouldn't go without studying for a big test which is the only reason he passes the DSTP. For a second there I thought he wouldn't pass but he certainly proved me wrong. That goes to show my brother can pass any test as long as he studies. Even if it's a little test, he'd still study because he cares about his grades so he wants to keep up with them.

Next thing in responsibility comes from admitting mistakes. He may look like he wouldn't admit his mistakes, but you are wrong. Like that time he broke the heater so right then he walked straight up to mom and said, "Mom, I broke the heater and I'm sorry." And that time when he broke a \$60 guitar and he told our parents because he knew it was the right thing to do.

Another important part of responsibility is helping. We could say my brother helps a lot since he helped me when I fell off my bike and he ran home and got me a bandaid. Another time he helped someone when he shoveled the snow when it was freezing outside, or the time he helped make food for guests.

Those are the best ways to show how my brother is responsible. I'm sure he can be responsible in many other ways, but the three that are most important is admitting his mistakes, studying, and helping others.

*Neel Patel*

First Place, Grade 4

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Today I am writing about someone who I think is responsible. That person is my dad. I picked my dad because he is trustworthy, reliable and helps in the house and outside. So this is why I picked my dad.

The reason my dad is reliable is that I can always count on him to pick me and my sister up from school when my mom has a meeting or has to stay longer and stuff. When mom can't take me to soccer practice, my dad is there to take me. That's the best part. But the most important thing is him helping me with hard homework especially if I'm stuck on a hard question. Well that's a reason why I think my dad is responsible. There are just a few more examples.

If I come home late from school or need help fixing things he is always there to help. For instance, if my mom or I forget to feed the dog before school dad feeds him. Sometimes when we come home from a long exhausting day at school, we walk in the kitchen and find a piping hot plate of chicken enchiladas. Or when one of my or Madison's toys are broken dad comes and fixes it. Those were some pretty stupendous and responsible things. Well time to move on.

Well after this I bet you that my mom is going to tell me to get to bed so I better hurry. One common thing dads do is mowing the lawn. So you probably expected that to be in here. So as I was saying, every summer my dad has to clean the pool. He says it's annoying and I'll take his word for it but he still cleans the pool. Sometimes my bike gets a flat tire but that does not stop my dad. Just give him a pump and the tire will look as good as new.

Well, that is why I picked my dad for responsibility. He is reliable, trustworthy, and much more. So that's all I wrote.

*Jacob Graham*

Second Place, Grade 4

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You know I could name so many responsible people but there is one person I think is the most responsible of all—my best friend Neel. I couldn't find someone more responsible. He does

many, many responsible things. He always does his work and does what he is told, but never has he gotten in trouble.

Well first of all, no matter how much work he's given, he always does it. I can't think of one day he didn't do his homework. It doesn't matter if it's the nicest, most perfect day outside or if he wants to play his games, he does his work before anything else—no matter what.

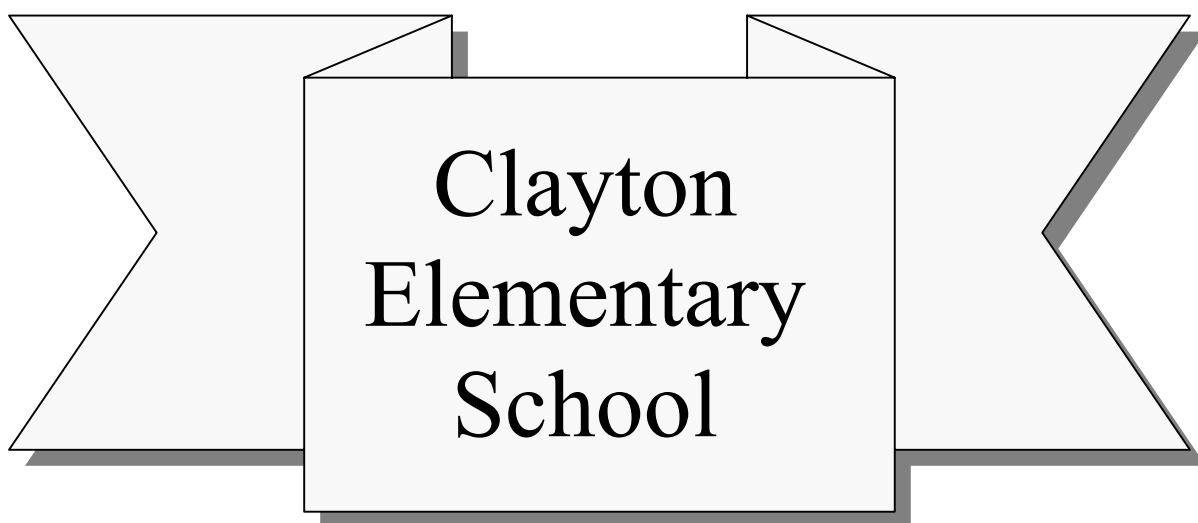
Well another thing he's done that's responsible, he does what he's told when he's told and right away. I could bet you everything I own that there is a guarantee if the teacher tells him to do something; he'll do it—rain or shine. Like once he had to help me with my work at recess because the teacher told him to. He did it without one second thought and not one complaint. Now how responsible is that?

Lastly you'd never ever see the words "trouble" and "Neel" together unless the words "doesn't get into" are in between. Not once since the day he walked into the school has a single person had to talk to him. And I'm going all the way back to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Not once has he gotten into trouble and that's no lie.

Well that's just a few things on the never ending list of reasons why Neel is so responsible. And remember, if you're looking for someone as responsible as Neel, look for someone who never gets in trouble, always does what they're told, and always does their homework. I would tell you more but I've got to go.

*Javon Garnett*

Third Place, Grade 4



*Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4*

I am responsible when I clean up my toys after I finish playing with them.

*Gabrielle Treadwell*

First Place, Kindergarten

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I am responsible when I wash the dishes. I make it shiny clean.

*Naiya Rodríguez*

Second Place, Kindergarten

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I am responsible for cleaning my mess.

*Chloe Keleher*

Third Place, Kindergarten

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I think Justin is the most responsible person in the world. I chose Justin because when someone asks him to do something he always does it. Justin always watches his little brothers and makes sure they are safe. He always takes them to the park like he's supposed to. It makes me feel happy that Justin is responsible because it teaches me how I can keep my sister safe. Justin always watches over my cousins.

*Jacob Greene*

First Place, Grade 1

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I think my dad is the most responsible. I chose my dad because when someone asks him to do something he does it. It makes me feel happy that my dad is responsible because when I have nightmares he lets me in his bed. My dad always cooks me dinner every night. He reads me a book every night. My dad drives me to school and when he gets home he hugs me.

*Briley Shahan*

Second Place, Grade 1

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My mom is the most responsible person I know. I chose my mom because she always does what she's supposed to do. My mom always washes the dishes when she is supposed to. My mom always helps people learn about books. It makes me feel glad that my mom is responsible because she helps kids to learn. My mom always makes sure I am safe. I am happy with my mom.

*Owen Zolper*

Third Place, Grade 1

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Do you know what responsible means? I do. The most responsible person in my family is my dad. If you want to find out keep reading. My dad is a responsible person. He works as a builder. He works to put food on the table. My dad helps me and my family. If my little brother or I am sick, he gets us up for school and gets us dressed. He pays taxes and bills. He puts us to bed on time. My dad knows my diabetes and knows when I need a shot. One time I got low and my dad went to the store to get me a soda. My dad helps me with my homework. My dad gets us breakfast in the morning. He makes sure in the middle of the night that we are all right. Another thing, if my nephews come over he puts up the gate so they don't fall down. Now you know my dad's responsibilities. I want to do the responsible things like my dad when I grow up.

*Savannah Simmons*

First Place, Grade 2

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The most responsible person I know is my daddy. The first responsible thing daddy does is he takes x-rays. It is important for daddy to take x-rays because it tells people if their bones are broken. Also he is always on time for work. Now that's what I call a responsibility! Plus daddy always gets all of his work done. That is a big responsibility too because if he didn't get all of his work done he would probably get in trouble. He feeds the pets too. If he didn't feed the pets the pets would die and he does not want that to happen. The most responsible job daddy has had was being in the Army and that's a big responsibility. That is a big responsibility to protect the USA. Another thing is daddy cooks for us. If daddy didn't cook for us one night we would be really hungry. Another responsible thing is daddy listens to his boss no matter what. Daddy also takes care of me and my brother like when mommy went out daddy stayed home with us. I wish I could grow up to be as responsible as him some day!

*Jenna Malone*

Second Place, Grade 2

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Did you know that I picked my neighbor Mr. Ron for the most responsible person? First Mr. Ron is responsible because he fights fires and saves people's lives. If it's a really big fire, Mr. Ron goes and sprays it until the fire dies down. He takes care of the people's pets when they get



hurt by fire. If an alarm goes off in my house, he comes right over. He is helpful and a good friend. Then he helps me if I get hurt badly like when I have a deep, deep cut. Finally if I get hot, he gives me something to drink. He feeds me strawberries. Mr. Ron loves me and all the people he helps. Mr. Ron is very responsible.

*Lauren Feliceangeli*

Third Place, Grade 2

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Wow!! You will not believe my teacher! When you read about her your mouth will drop down to the ground—far, far down! Her name is Mrs. Kassner. She has so much responsibility. Everyone on my bus in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade says, “Man I wish I were in your class!” Also she loves the EAGLES! She has two girls named Emma and Ashley. Also she teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade which you should already know from the beginning. She has so much responsibility she cannot stop. Here are a couple of times she has shown responsibility. Just for the record she has done so many things that were responsible, I can only remember a few things.

Okay now we can get to the real responsible things. Today Mrs. Kassner taught us math and every kid who answered a question got the answer right! You might thin—how in the world is that responsible? Well, she is doing her job—teaching! She had to persevere a little because some of the children did not understand it at first, but she got the whole class through it. She is doing her job, right? Right! Being a teacher might be her job but she goes beyond that responsibility and makes sure that we all TRULY understand before we move on.

Yesterday my friend, Nikke, needed help on a really hard question on her A.M. (accelerated math.) Mrs. Kassner helped her. Nikki went to scan her A.M., Mrs. Kassner checked it and guess what score Nikke got—a 100%. That is showing responsibility because she’s not only doing her job but she is helping kids by teaching them responsibility by just not putting down any old answer. She teaches us that it is our responsibility to ask for help so that we can understand the problem we are facing with A.M.

Now if you don’t think this is responsible then take a class on being responsible. A half a month ago, Mrs. Kassner told her BFF that she would be at Chelsea’s cheerleading tournament. That’s a commitment, and I guess that Mrs. Kassner went because, when I tried to call, Chelsea answered the phone and said, “Man, you should have been at my tournament. Mrs. Kassner was there with Emma and Ashley.” She went on and on how Mrs. Kassner was a good sport and bla bla bla this and that. So I thought to myself about how our responsibility piece is coming up so why don’t I do my responsibility piece on Mrs. Kassner. It would be great; she already has done a million things that are responsible. She was tickled to death. I could tell. She showed responsibility because she followed through on a commitment and that sure is responsible!

That is what I call responsibility. She’s the best teacher I ever met. She’s a nice, pretty, caring, fun-loving, best friend any student could ever have. If she’s not the best teacher in the world then how do you explain everyone on my bus saying I’m lucky to be in her class? I said why do you like her so much? The first thing that came out of their mouths was she has so much

responsibility. I mean could you live without her after hearing all this stuff. If you don't like her then your family or you were born on Mars, or you might have to go to the nut house and if you do that I don't think you would like that. I love her as a teacher. She is definitely the best.

*Juliana Kolakowski*

First Place, Grade 3

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All day I have been thinking about responsibility, and someone popped into my head—my mom. Well, a lot of people popped into my head, but my mom shined the most. Here's why.

My mom is the most responsible person because a lot of people rely on her. My brothers and I rely on her the most to help us. I think we should pull our own weight a little more. Also, she made me who I am. Another thing is that she lets people rely on her, and she makes sure I do my homework. She makes sure I have a lunch every day. One time I forgot my lunch, so she brought it to school. She is also a responsible mom because she makes sure I get better at stuff, for example horseback riding.

Another way my mom is responsible is when she had to take care of a patient who needed help. She could not pay for an appointment, so my mom said, "You can come in for free." The patient depended on my mom's generosity to help her get better.

Another example of how people rely on my mom is by being a good friend. A friend told her about how she goes to church and she was making Christmas baskets for the poor, but she ran out of money. So my mom gave her money. She said, "Now you have enough to help them." The woman started to cry. When my mom told me the story I was so proud of her for being responsible.

In closing, my mom is very trustworthy. She is very responsible as a mom, a friend, and a doctor. She tries her best to make our family the best we can be. She also tries to make money so we can have a house. She even goes to work when she is exhausted. That's why I think mom shines the most, and I am very proud of her.

*Danielle Keener*

Second Place, Grade 3

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I have been thinking all day about someone who shows responsibility and I have finally found that person. I want to tell you about Katie Harrington. She's nice and kind. She's also like my sister. She is sixteen and the most responsible person I know. I don't even know if George Washington was as responsible as her.

Hey this reminds me of last week. She was babysitting and looking at movies on "On Demand." She saw a movie she had been dying to see but it was rated R, so she didn't watch it because my

sister and I were there. Instead of watching it we watched a movie rated PG because she was responsible for us.

Also yesterday I got a new puppy. Katie really, really wanted to come down and see it. So she called her mom but her mom said no. She didn't come and see it; she didn't even think about sneaking down. She was responsible by listening to her mom and not coming down to see my awesome new puppy.

Last year she babysat us all summer and she was always on time. Also about five or six days out of the summer she was sick, but she still came and babysat us. She was never late. It was her responsibility to be on time because then my mom would be late to work and that would be awful.

So that's what I wanted to tell you. Do you think she's responsible because I sure do? I wonder what responsible things she will do next summer.

*Justin Johnson*

Third Place, Grade 3

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Have you ever thought about someone that takes on a big responsibility each day? Well one day I was thinking, and I realized that someone very close to me takes on a big commitment every day. My Dad! He is an FBI agent. An FBI agent is someone who works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Each and every day he has a job to do; he has to solve mysteries. One time, one of his cases made the top five biggest cases in Philadelphia. It was the Bonnie and Clyde case. They were stealing other peoples' identities. This means they stole credit cards, money and wallets from other people. My dad had to interview people who the thieves had stolen from. Then he had to get a special grant warrant from a judge so he could go to the victim's or criminal's houses to look through their personal things and computers. But one day two people said they knew where Bonnie and Clyde were hiding. There was enough evidence and they were busted!

Sometimes even his friends rely on him when they can't come into work. They will call him and ask my dad if he can do some work for them. When one of his friends called my dad recently to ask for this favor, the job was done in no time.

WOW! When I think of it, my dad has a really big responsibility each day. When I grow up I hope to be just as responsible as him.

*Elizabeth Smith*

First Place, Grade 4

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My grandmother, Mom-Mom, is a responsible person because she knows when to pick me up for school and it would be really hard for her to forget me. Every time she can't make it, she sends my grandfather and they are always there for me. Even when I was sick, she came to visit me when I got my tonsils taken out. They were calling every minute of the day to see how I was doing.

Another great thing my Mom-Mom is responsible for is when she is called to get equipment for a party. She always gets the equipment on time and always shows up. My grandmother is a very responsible person.

My Mom-Mom is so responsible; she keeps food and ice-cold drinks on the table almost every day after school. Plus she has furniture and toys to keep me active. Another thing she is responsible for is keeping her house clean—even when I am not there.

Those are only some of the reasons my Mom-Mom is responsible. There are a lot more that I can't even number the times because she is so responsible and has always been by my side, even when I'm sick. She is one of the most responsible people I know.

*Hunter Shane*

Second Place, Grade 4

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The most responsible person in my life would be my mom! I love my mom very much because she helps me understand life and guides me the right way so I don't mess up too much. She also gives me someone to talk to when I am confused. She also gets me to school on time so I am not late. So, without my mom driving me to school, I would not be educated.

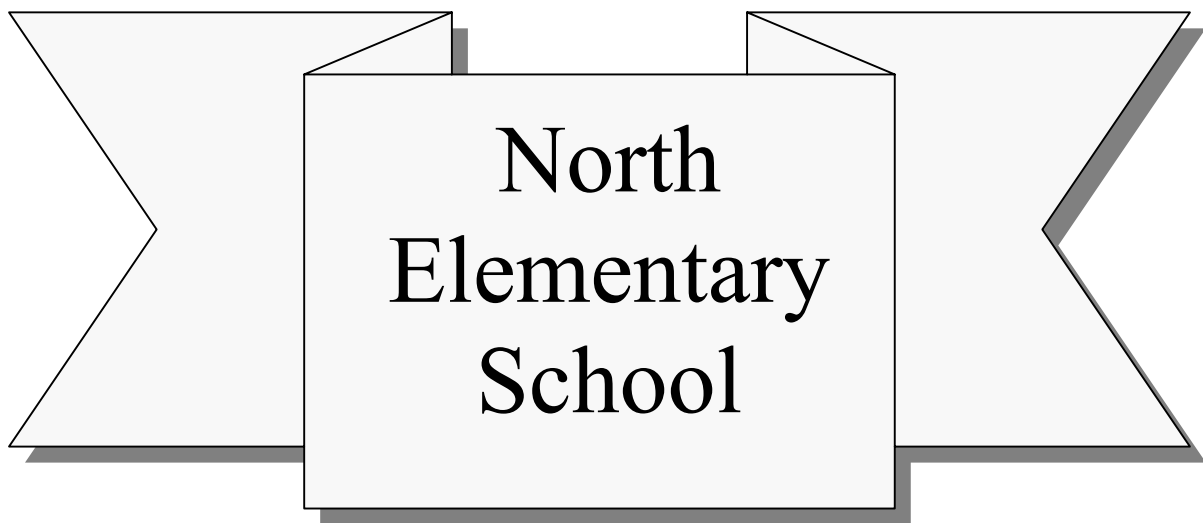
Some people think that their moms are just to take them to school and feed them. But my mom does not just do that. She does much more like: washing dishes, cleaning clothes, and helping me with my homework. I could go on for hours! My mom is also responsible because she picks up trash that people throw away to help the environment. Is there anything my mom can't do?

There are other things my mom does than just being my mom. My mom is also one of my best friends. Just because my mom is my mom does not mean she can't be my best friend—right? She is my parent and will punish me when I am misbehaving, but that's what parents are for. That is also being a responsible person.

My mom is the most responsible person in my life. My mom always knows what to do. I always will think that my mom is responsible because she truly is.

*Mason Wynne*

Third Place, Grade 4



*Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4*

I am responsible for my sister. I play with her and read her stories.

*Grace Ezell*

First Place, Kindergarten

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I am responsible for my pig. I feed it and give him water and give him a bath.

*Sam Brittingham*

Second Place, Kindergarten

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I was responsible when I cleaned up after my dog..

*Robert Robinson*

Third Place, Kindergarten

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My mother is a nurse. She is responsible for taking care of sick people. First, mom looks inside their mouths to see if they have a sore throat. Sometimes she gives the patient a shot. Then she puts a bandage on the place she gave the shot to help it from hurting. She takes their blood pressure and measures how tall they are. She listens to the patient's problems. I choose to write about my mother because she is a responsible nurse. Someday I'll be a nurse just like her. I am blessed to have her as my mother.

*Sarah Charles*

First Place, Grade 1

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Responsibility means that somebody takes care of you and helps you. My brother is a responsible person because he can take really good care of me. My brother is a responsible brother because every time I get hurt he goes and tells my mom. It is nice to have a brother like Tyler. I love him very much.

*Ava Acton*

Second Place, Grade 1

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My dad is responsible because he is a police officer. He does his job well. One time he got tasered on his job. He was hurt but he is better now. He has to be careful at work. My dad protects people from bad guys. He goes to work to help people feel safe. My dad works on his laptop. He used his laptop to do some police work. My dad is the best dad in my life. He shows me how to play the drums and helps me with my homework. My dad is the most responsible person I know. I love my dad.

*Marcus Cajuste*

Third Place, Grade 1

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Hi, I'm going to tell you about a responsible person. Her name is Raina Semineck. She is responsible because she is nice, she helps people, she behaves well, and she is friends with everyone. She even helps cheer people up when they are sad. She is a nice person and she's my best friend.

I'm going to tell you how Raina's nice, because she uses her manners and she gives people a hand when they fall down. She's friends with everyone because if someone doesn't have a friend she will be their friend.

Now I'm going to tell you about how Raina helps people. She helps people if they need help with a word. She will tell them it and if they need help with a math problem she will help them. She will help people with a project if they aren't finished that project, and that's how she helps people.

Last, I'm going to tell you how she behaves well. She is safe, caring, respectful and responsible. She is also good because she doesn't get that many sticks either.

I chose Raina because she is a responsible person. She helps me be a better person. She is a great role model.

*Gabrielle Spence*

First Place, Grade 2

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I am writing about my mom. She has a lot of things to be responsible for. Responsibility means that you are in charge of things you have. Like to give you an example, if I were in charge of a dog I would have to feed him, walk him, play with him and all those other things.

My first reason is my mom is a reading teacher. She helps kids do retellings. When she helps kids with retellings they become better readers. My mom has a reading group in the morning with some first graders and she helps them with retellings and words. She works at my school. She lets me read lots of stories and retell what happened in the story and tell as many words as possible.

My second reason is my mom making dinner. She makes dinner for the whole family and there are six people in the family. One of her favorite meals is macaroni and cheese. She makes that most often. Another favorite of hers is cheeseburgers—she loves them. Mom makes every meal; she makes breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

My third reason is taking care of the whole family. When I get home mom helps me with my homework. My mom is the one who does all of the laundry. She folds the clothes. That's a really big job for her. When I do my Saturday jobs I ask for help and she helps me. She cleans the whole house including our bedroom sometimes. My mom has a lot to be responsible for. Sometimes I don't see her, but I still like her for everything she does for me.

*Emily Marthaler*

Second Place, Grade 2

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I am writing about my sister Shelby being responsible by making sure I am okay when I fall down. I am also writing about Shelby doing her chores, and I am writing about how Shelby always helps me do my chores. Shelby has a big responsibility! She is a great little sister!

Shelby is responsible by making sure I am okay if I fall down, and if I get cut she gets a bandaid. If it bleeds, she gets mom and she will get a wet, wet cloth and dab it so the blood comes off. Then mom makes sure the blood is gone and puts the bandaid on my cut arm. Then Shelby and I start playing in our playhouse.

Shelby is also responsible by doing her chores. Like when her room is dirty with clothes and shoes on the floor. Mom will tell her to clean her room and she cleans it right away. Another chore for Shelby is when she is done playing games with her friends there is a big mess on the floor. Mom will ask them to clean it up and they both clean it up right away. The last chore that Shelby does is if she has a lot of dirty clothes on her chair and bed she will pick them up and walk to my room to drop them in the clothes hamper.

Shelby is also responsible by helping me do my chores like when our clothes hamper is full of dirty clothes. I get one handle and Shelby gets the other. Then we pick it up and we bring it to the washer and dryer. Then we make sure all of them are inside-in and we dump them in the washer and put the soap in. I turn it on and then we are all done. Another chore is Shelby helps me pack up to go to Nanny's and Poppy's house because she is fast!

The last thing to show that Shelby is responsible is when my room is really dirty. Shelby will come in my room to help me make my bed and put my clothes in the clothes hamper. Then we are all done.



That is how Shelby shows she is responsible. This shows that Shelby can be responsible even though she is only five years old and she is smaller than me. Shelby is the best sister in the whole world!

*Bray Fedele*

Third Place, Grade 2

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Do you know what responsibility means? It means to be reliable, stick to your promises, follow through on commitments, have self-control, and make good choices. When I think of responsibility, I think of my phenomenal dad. He shows responsibility in everything he does for his family, friends and work. I can't wait to share all the amazing ways my dad shows dependability to you.

First, I would like to tell you about how dependable my dad is with his family. He makes sure bills are paid on time. Also he is helping my big sister out by letting her live in the house and watching my niece and nephew. My uncle Jimmy has a car that is broken and my dad helps him out by letting him use his tools. See how my magnificently reliable dad is?

Second, my dad's friends have a wonderful person to rely on and that's him! He goes out at night and helps his friend Dave with different jobs. Also he helps Jim fix up his house before winter. Lastly, he helps Randy with the elevators at PNC bank. This shows how dependable he is to his friends.

Finally, he works at Asset Management Alliance and yet he shows the most dependability to his job. He is a very trusty technician. My dad checks the pager on time to see what job he has to do at that very moment. My dad has to be at work very early in the morning as well. Lastly every time he does overtime work, he has to fill out a lot of overtime papers. Wow he's a real responsible worker.

Remember how my dad follows through on commitments, how he has self-control, and how he makes terrific choices with his family, friends, and work. He inspired me to do my best! He makes me feel safe and loved because he says, "You are my pride and joy!" I wish I could be as awesome as him. I will be responsible just like him.

*Justin Bottomley*

First Place, Grade 3

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Guess what? There's a writing contest at school and we have to write about a responsible person. I had to think. Abby? Megan? Mia? Bray? That's it, Madison. My friend Madison is always responsible. She's responsible with her family, with me, and when she's at school.

When Madison is with her family, she usually protects her little brother. For example, Madison and I were at the Mid County Lanes bowling alley and a little girl who was six wanted to play with us. Madison's little brother didn't know that it was the little girl's seat he was sitting in so she tells him to get out of her seat. Madison said, "You can just ask him nicely." She also takes wonderful care of her dogs. She feeds them, plays with them, and cares for them. Madison listens to her mom and dad always. If her mom tells her to clean her room, she'll do it. If her dad tells her to take out the trash, she'll do it. My point is she'll do whatever her mom and dad tell her to do.

Madison is a very responsible friend. As my friend, she is the best. For example, if I needed help with something Madison would help me. When I'm upset she makes me feel better. She is always nice and generous to me too. When I got my hamster, Madison's the one who helped me clean my room to earn her.

In school she is always good. Madison is nice to her classmates all of the time. She will laugh with them, help them, and work with them. She always gets good grades and follows all of the rules. She also enjoys learning and working.

Madison is the best friend I could ever have. I can always count on her for anything. I hope Madison and I will be friends forever. One day, I bet I will be as responsible as she is. Remember she is very responsible at home with her family, with me, and at school.

*Erin Smallwood*

Second Place, Grade 3

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Wow! I just learned about responsibility! It means following through on commitments and making good choices. My mom is responsible for her family, friends, and at work. That's why she is dependable. She is a responsible person

My family is dependent on my mommy. Every night she helps me with my homework. She feeds me and my dog and sometimes my brother. My mom makes sure that my clothes are clean. She even takes out my dog for me. This shows that my mommy is a dependable person.

My mom's friends rely on her. My mom helps her friends when they are sick. She even helped her friend with the computer because her hand was broken and hurt. She takes care of their house and feeds their dogs if they are at the hospital or on vacation. This shows that she is an awesome friend.

The last thing I am going to talk about is work. My mom has to do the bills. Then she sends them to people. She makes copies of important papers. My mom always has meetings at work. That means she has to be there on time. This shows that my mom is a hard worker.

My mom is a good family member. She is a super friend. She is the best worker. I want to be responsible like her.

*Haley O'Neal*

Third Place, Grade 3

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Responsibility—what a word, huh? Some people find it hard to be responsible. In a way they are right. To be responsible you have to be honest, nice, and you must know how to take care of your actions. You need to be safe and very respectful. I picked a person who is responsible every second—my daddy!

English is very important to my daddy. He wants to get a good job instead of working in a company. To do that you need to know English. Since he wants to reach that goal, he decided to take English classes. They learn how to tell the time and say sentences to the teacher. You are not going to believe this but his teacher gives him more homework than my teacher gives me. Isn't that so weird? He always does his homework right when he comes back from school at 6:30 p.m. He does his homework right away so he doesn't need to do it later. Most of the students miss a few English classes all because they are just tired, they are doing something else, or they just don't feel like going. My daddy goes to school every day or should I say every Monday. That is the only day there is class. He doesn't care if he is tired or if he is doing something else. He really wants to learn English and he would do anything to succeed in his goals.

They do really fun stuff over there too. My dad enjoys it a lot. Once I went with him and I wanted to help him on his English quiz but he said, "No! I want to do it on my own." Also, my dad is never late for class. He hates when he is ever late for something. For example one day he was like one or two minutes late to show this guy around the house so he could buy it, but when we got there the man had already left. That is why my dad doesn't like to be late for anything. He also just wants to be there on time so he doesn't miss anything he needs to know to get a real job.

My dad is also very responsible by taking care of my family. My dad took very good care of my mom when she was sick. He stayed with her in bed; he served her breakfast, and brought it to her in bed; then made the pillows more comfortable. Ugh! He just wouldn't rest until my mom told him to. That day his best friends came over to ask if he wanted to go with them, but he did not want to leave my mom alone so he said, "Maybe another day—I'm sort of busy today." So you see he was very responsible in that situation.

Another case that wasn't so easy was when I had chicken pox. He stayed with me the whole time. He didn't even work just to stay with me. We kept watching the Care Bears and when the episode was over he pretended to be a Care Bear and told me how much he cared about me. He brought me breakfast, lunch and dinner. He always brought games for us to play such as Monopoly and Guess Who? He also brought his joke book which obviously has jokes inside it—duh! He always makes me laugh. We always had a great time together.

My dad never lets my mom pay the bills or cook—especially when she is sick. My dad always finds a way of paying his bills on time. He thinks my mom should save money to buy herself pretty things such as clothes and jewelry. My dad cooks at night and leaves the food in the microwave ready to eat. He makes fruit salad and other very healthy food. Guess what? It tastes great! Yummy!

Now this is a question some people ask me and I stay as quiet as if someone had glued my lips together. The question is: How does my daddy make me feel or think about ways I could be more responsible? Now that I think about it, in a way he makes me feel glad. Why? Well because I am glad I have a very responsible father. Some people are not even able to have someone that takes care of them, not even a father. But I do have a responsible father and a family who loves me so I won't let this opportunity slide out of my hands like it slid away from others.

In another way I feel ashamed of myself. When I see my dad do his homework, and I am not doing it or not even turning it in, I feel ashamed of myself. But most of all I feel that I actually could be more responsible. For example, by cleaning my room, doing my homework every day, and being honest to everyone. I promise I am going to be as responsible as I possibly can. You see, it is not that hard to be responsible like others but some people just don't even try. I don't worry much about that because that is none of my business, and I already know I am responsible and I am always going to be.

*Laura Almeida*

First Place, Grade 4

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Responsibility means so much. It means that you do tasks on time; you're responsible, dependable and trustworthy. The responsible person in my life is my mom. There is not only one reason why it is her.

My first reason is her teaching. I say teaching because I see the amount of work and effort she puts in every day before and after school. Everyone in her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class is passing with an A, B, or C. It takes dedication and effort for her to keep everyone passing. Also, she comes in every day around 7:25 and leaves around 4:30 to 5:00 and still brings more stuff home. She spends time doing work when she could be watching cool shows. She loves teaching.

I knew I had more than one reason so here is number two. She will go to church every week with me and teaches Sunday school. She gives shoeboxes filled with toys and hygiene supplies to kids in different countries without a lot of stuff. She is also willing to take us to sports and other activities every night. She is like super mom when she does stuff for us. She does love watching us at sports though.

Some of you might wonder how she makes me feel. I sure can answer that. She makes me feel like I should be more responsible everywhere I go. When I do something wrong on a test, I think

of her and she makes me feel I can do anything. My responsible mom makes me feel like I can be responsible.

Try not to forget about how responsible my mom is. Maybe it is possible I'll be as responsible as her some day. Like how she teaches, helps in the community and takes us to sports and activities. She is the role model of my life.

*Anna Hall*

Second Place, Grade 4

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Today I saw a really responsible person. In case you're wondering what responsibility means, it means someone is very loyal, determined, and reliable. Like I said before, I met somebody that's all those things and more. Her name is Mrs. Lewis! If I were you, I would be dying to know why I am obsessed with how responsible she is.

Mrs. Lewis used to be my first grade teacher and ever since then, I've thought she was the best. To think she was the best she must have been a really, really loyal teacher. She is very determined. She stays after school till like 9:00 p.m. Now I don't know about you but that shows me she's being prepared and staying after school getting ready for the next day. Also, as she tries to be a good teacher she is very loyal to her students like she was to me. You think that's it? Well it's not.

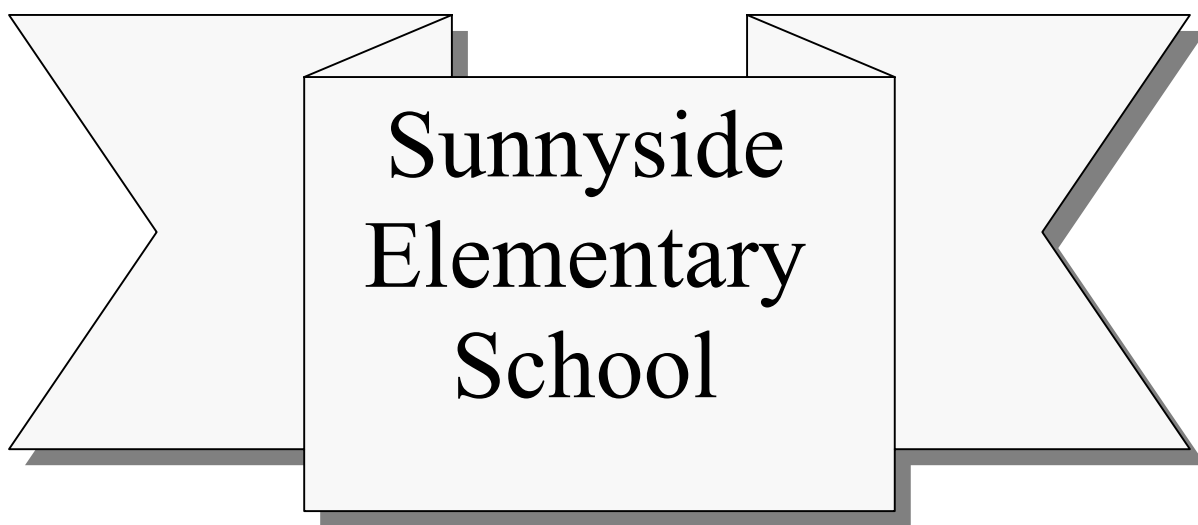
Mrs. Lewis also makes sure her family is taken care of—she feeds them. Also she makes sure her daughter Madison is sent to school. And she feeds her animals. Speaking of family, you wouldn't believe how much she treats her friends like family.

Mrs. Lewis is also a very responsible friend as well. She is very trustworthy with her friends. You can trust her with anything. She is a very, very dependable person. As far as I know the word dependable is Mrs. Lewis. And as I said before, many times the best thing I love about her is she treats my family and I like family. We always joke around about my last name should be Lewis. Basically the point I'm trying to get across is that Mrs. Lewis is the definition of responsible. She's trustworthy, dependable, reliable and amazingly loyal to her friends.

So Mrs. Lewis is a responsible person inside and outside of school. She is responsible at home, with family, with friends and in public. I say a lot of people should look up to her. Who doesn't want to look up to someone who is always planned and prepared? She is very determined when she wants to get something done and very trustworthy and loyal with her friends and family. I look up to Mrs. Lewis.

*Mia Dionisi*

Third Place, Grade 4



*Grades kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4*

My mom is responsible because she helps me be a responsible person.

*Sydney Harrison*

First Place, Kindergarten

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Ms. Castro is responsible to be the principal. She is a good principal because she takes people in the principal's office because they are bad.

*Brynn Rifino*

Second Place, Kindergarten

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My mommy is responsible. Mommy cleans up my room and I mess up my room.

*Emily Thompson*

Third Place, Kindergarten

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Doing the right thing is responsibility. My sister Lauren shows responsibility. She helps other families when she babysits for them. They trust her to take good care of them, keeping them safe, feeding them and having fun while the moms and dads go out to get food. When I follow directions and listen to the teacher, I'll be more responsible just like my sister.

*Lacey Neeld*

First Place, Grade 1

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My friend Nathan shows responsibility. Why—because he makes good choices. He throws trash away because he is well behaved. He is on time. Why does he do chores—because he has to. I chose Nathan because he is my best friend.

*Jaydin Wright*

Second Place, Grade 1

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Responsible people, that are being helpful, help friends and family with the things that friends and family mess up. My mom and dad make good choices because they are taking care of me

and my two brothers and my baby sister. My mom and dad clean the house and do the dinner for my mom-mom and pop-pop. I can be more responsible by helping my mom do the dinner.

*McKenzie Gearhart*

Third Place, Grade 1

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Hey, hey! Do you know what it means to be responsible? It means to be someone others can depend upon. I know someone who fits this description. Her name is Jodie Brown. She's my mom. My mom was responsible when she took care of my baby brothers while my stepdad took me and my brothers to school. This was every single day we went to school.

My mom makes me happy. My mom is responsible and caring. She teaches me to be caring, responsible, and kind to others. I learned a lot about being responsible from her. My mom made me a new person. She made me a person who is kind, respectful, and responsible.

*Kayla Wells*

First Place, Grade 2

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I was feeling sad today but the most responsible person, Mrs. Gaston, helped me. Responsibility is when someone can trust you. Mrs. Gaston is responsible all the time because she comes to school every single day. She teaches me, too. She does awesome math problems. Mrs. Gaston always does the right things because she shows us our patterns and we do money every morning so we get better. She takes us all over the school where we need to go like lunch and special.

She even watches the irresponsible people and tries to help them become more responsible. Mrs. Gaston makes me feel more responsible because she makes me want to listen and not talk and to make better choices. She gives me great ideas. She makes me have a better day.

Those are all the responsible things about Mrs. Gaston. That is what I think responsibility is and that is what I think Mrs. Gaston is.

*Aimmee Rink*

Second Place, Grade 2

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Do you know what responsibility is? I can tell you. Responsibility is like taking care of something. My friend Grace does this at school. It is hard to be a responsible person but Grace makes it look easy. She does the best things.



Grace shows that she is a responsible person by listening to Mrs. Gaston and not talking while Mrs. Gaston is teaching. Grace never runs in the halls even when no one is looking because she knows that she might hurt someone or even herself.

Grace makes being responsible look easy by showing the class how to do good things. Grace can show how to be a good student to the class and Mrs. Gaston. Like at lunch, Grace sits down and starts eating. She does not sit and start talking right away. She is a responsible friend to play with too. Grace also plays nice. She doesn't run at recess because this might hurt someone especially the little kindergarten people.

Now that I told you about my responsible friend, Grace, I am going to be responsible and her best friend forever.

*Ana Uribe*

Third Place, Grade 2

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Wow—today was terrific (not only because of the ice and snow)! Today I was helped by someone I hadn't seen before! His name is Mr. VanVeen. He's a pet owner and kind of like a part-time teacher. He helps everybody too. He helped me when someone ripped a page in my book. I started to think "Is that called responsibility?" Also I thought, "Did he have to do that?" Then I said to myself, "What does responsibility mean to me?" Then I knew what it meant and Mr. VanVeen just used it right in front of me.

Mr. VanVeen and his dog, Toby, do have a really great relationship. I heard it takes a lot of responsibility to care for a dog. I'm surprised he stepped up out of the shadows when Buster, the old dog, passed away. Toby takes extra responsibility because he's so energetic! Mr. VanVeen has tons and tons of responsibility when it comes to feeding, playing, and especially teaching Toby. He knows sit, fetch, and stay; but a trick that all dogs like Toby know is eat!

Mr. VanVeen also shows responsibility by being a teacher of self-control and responsibility. How does he teach it? He teaches it by playing games. He also brought in a movie teaching all about responsibility. In the end of the movie all the characters learned about responsibility, and then they used it. He also talks to people who have a problem; then he fixes it by talking to the other person in the argument if there is another person. He also sends people to and from the nurse at recess if they get hurt.

Mr. VanVeen is also my friend because he helped me in kindergarten. When I was disappointed he took me on a walk around the school and talked. Another reason he's my friend is because he helps me look for my mom in her car at the end of the day when the great big crowd of walkers

come. I want to be just as responsible as Mr. VanVeen. From now on I'm going to be more responsible.

*Ryan Dean*

First Place, Grade 3

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You can always count on my mom-mom to show responsibility. My mom-mom shows responsibility on a regular basis. When she is at home she has to water her flower garden. When she goes to work she cheers kids up. She loves her family. She'll do anything to help them.

Now let's talk some more about her family. My mom-mom has six grandchildren, including me, and loves them all. My mom-mom makes sure my family and I are safe. She is an awesome and excellent role model. I want to grow up and be as responsible as she is and a great role model like her some day. She has helped us move into every house we have lived in. When we moved into the house we live in now she helped move furniture, make beds, and she even got us new bedding. Every Easter she has an Easter egg hunt and I usually get over \$20 in cash! She also gives us about twelve gifts each Christmas. A few weeks before school starts she takes us school clothes shopping. She lets us get anything as long as it's in dress code. Isn't she awesome?

At work my mom-mom manages a lot of schedules, people, and students. She is head of the lower school at Ursaline Academy. She has been there for many years. Now she has the experience and is responsible to run a large city school. My mom-mom cheers kids up at work. For example, a little boy's dad was in the army and he was leaving for one whole year. She came to our house and asked my brother for some of his Power Ranger toys he doesn't use so she could give them to the boy. The next day she started giving the boy the toys one day at a time. He just got his last one. Every day she brought in a different toy. He was so comforted because he knew he had a friend who cared. She didn't have to do anything for the boy, but she took on the responsibility to help him through this difficult time.

My mom-mom is so cool! She thinks responsibly and is eco-friendly. She helps the earth stay clean by picking up litter at parks and neighborhoods and, well, everywhere. She loves planting all kinds of plants and takes care of every single one. She loves all kinds of animals. She has about ten bird feeders in her yard. I love her garden. Not only does she love animals but animals love her too.

I think my mom-mom is one of the most responsible people I know. She works hard at home, my house, neighborhoods, parks, and work. She is one caring, sincere, and responsible person! Well, at least I think so.

*Madison Keister*

Second Place, Grade 3

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I was thinking about a word today and it felt like my brain was working part-time. I think this word is on the PBS announcement; the word is responsibility. I know that word is a big word but there is a person in my family who is very responsible. That is my dad because he is the hardest worker, he is the best one on the crew, he is very helpful, and he is a dad of two children—me and my older brother.

My dad goes to work every day and doesn't come home until Thursday because he is a very hard worker. My mom and I are alone all week long and sometimes I miss him really bad. He calls every morning and night and I talk to him. When he says "I love you buddy" and "have a good day" I get teary eyed. My dad is responsible for me and my family because he is helpful.

My dad is very helpful because he has always been there for his mom. She has been sick sometimes but she is very nice. My dad is helpful because if my mom is cooking or doing something he is right there helping. It is good that he is helping her because sometimes my mom needs a lot of help. Sometimes I can't help her because I am doing homework, but if she needs me she will call me if she needs help. She thinks that is really nice of him and sometimes she cracks up because she can't believe that he is doing that. I am glad I picked my dad because he is helpful enough to help me with my homework.

I'm glad I have a dad like I do. Like it will be a Saturday and I will say, "Hey dad, want to go do something?" I don't like to be sitting home on the couch. He says, "Why can't we go do some deer hunting?" He has to be really responsible because he has to make sure I am okay; he even makes sure I don't fall out of the stand because that would really hurt.

My dad is a good person. He provides very well for me and my family and other people. Also, he is a hard worker and one important thing is he is always there for me no matter what. He will always be my best friend ever. Here is one of my favorite things, he will always be in my heart.

*Shane Melson*

Third Place, Grade 3

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He went from a Senator of Illinois to president of the U.S. He went on the roller coaster ride of responsibility that comes down to "I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and I will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States. So help me God." In those 29 seconds, he said the oath, and he finally could let go all of the stress that came with getting there. Now he will have even more responsibility in office. He showed tons of responsibility before, during, and after the campaign. This is how he did it.

Before the campaign, he had to save a lot of money for all the stuff he needed for his campaign. The money went toward things like signs, buttons, and ads. He needed to be responsible and not spend too much money on other things. Barack also showed responsibility by forming a team of good people to help him. He also had to have ideas for the campaign.

Then the campaign started. He had to remember to have people put up the signs bought with the money that his campaign saved. He also had to help plan the Democratic convention, and his main goal was to just get people at the convention to accept his platform of change and reform.

After the campaign and the election were over, he had to appoint his cabinet. He was responsible for picking the best cabinet possible to get the job done.

That year of planning in Illinois to the oval office was a long journey. Some think it was a piece of cake, but they don't have what he has—responsibility. That's why I feel that he should help me win the school writing contest.

*Noah Taylor*

First Place, Grade 4

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I am having a writing contest on responsibility. Responsibility means to take control of yourself. I also have to pick someone who is responsible, and I am picking my mom. I am picking her because she has a lot of responsibilities in her life.

Working in the cafeteria is a big responsibility. She has to make sure that every kid gets a healthy and nutritious meal. She also has to run the cafeteria line so people won't fight and scream. My mom also has to wash the trays so they don't get dirty and moldy. She shows responsibility in taking care of her job in the cafeteria.

Mom is responsible for paying bills. She has to pay the electric bill so the power of light does not go out. She also has to pay the heating bills so the whole house can be warm. Finally she pays the tax bills and when they are paid, we don't have any money left.

By being the PTO president, my mom has several responsibilities. She has to help raise money for the field trips or get things set up for them. She has to make sure things are set for Halloween parties and make things very scary. She also has to make sure things go smoothly for the special nights like Bingo night.

Now you know how in all ways my mom is responsible. She follows responsibility at all times. I hope that I can be like her too when I grow up.

*Dylan Ellington*

Second Place, Grade 4

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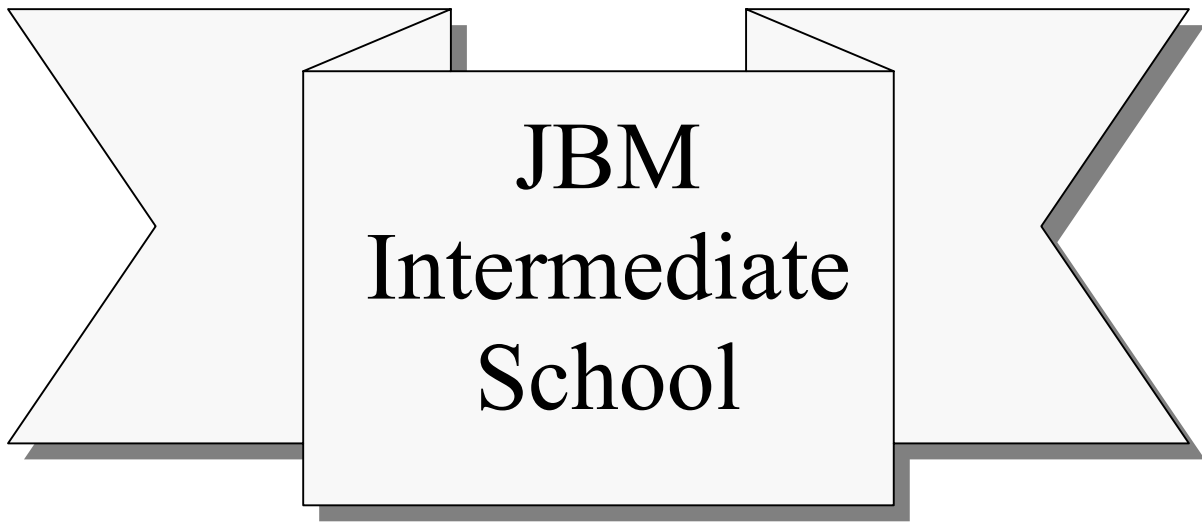
My mom Krissy is the most responsible person I know because she will do her job at the deli. She does everything at home. She's also a good citizen in our world.

First, I'll tell you how my mother is responsible at her work. My mom is never late. Actually she's always early. She does whatever her boss tells her to do, but she will never clean the boy's bathroom.

Next, I'll tell you how she's responsible at home. Every day after dinner my mom cleans the dishes and sometimes I help her. Also, sometimes my mom takes her time and helps me with my homework. Mostly every time my dad has bills to pay, my mom will try to help him pay them. That's why my mom is responsible at home.

Finally, I'll tell you how she's a good citizen. My mom has never gone through a red light because she follows the traffic rules. Most every time my mom gets paid she will give a little to an organization. Every day my mom will teach us one new thing—that's responsible. Well there I told you everything I promised you.

*Dylan Gearhart*  
Third Place, Grade 4



*Grades 5 and 6*

Responsibility—what is it? It's the one word that I hear all day long! Adults are the ones that take all the responsibility; kids—not so much. Kids can be pretty irresponsible but I do know someone who isn't and that's definitely my mom. She's the one who takes on the mega responsibility in my family. She tries to keep up with the cleaning and cooking no matter what. She cares about my grades and takes an interest in all my school programs. Let's just start with her taking interest in my school work, taking on responsibility, and all of her big jobs. Let's start off with her interest in my school

I guess you could kind of call my mom the PTO/soccer mom type. She gets me involved in many, many sports and in lots of things at school. Her responsibilities are big. She reminds me of quizzes or tests coming up at my school every day. She signs everything of mine. Mom also keeps track of my after-school activities. My mother is always getting me to softball or volleyball practice on time and knows it is important to me. So if you shorten that, you could just say, "She works as hard as a farmer on a scorching summer day." Now that is responsible.

It seems like from the day mom was born, she has worked. For example, last Saturday she got called in to work. Who wants to work on a Saturday? Well, my point is when she finally came home she was tuckered out and still traveled to Food Lion, did the laundry, and cooked the family dinner. She was exhausted but still pulled through. At my mom's job she has many things to accomplish in just nine hours. She has to be as organized as possible. She has this big job that is for the deputy warden at the prison. She stays busy. Mom has to get stamps for inmate letters and office supplies for her job. She's busy as a bee! Usually she keeps all of her paperwork and faxed letters at her job, but every now and then she has to bring her job home which means that she needs to keep them as neat and organized as she does at work. Trust me, she goes berserk without all of her labels and computer files. I wish someday I could walk in her footsteps. Seeing my mom persevere makes me want to be even more like her every day. I see responsibility in all her actions.

*Sarah LaBerge*  
First Place, Grade 5

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There's this person I know who knows as much about responsibility as Albert Einstein knew math answers. That person happens to be my dad. He's the most responsible person I have ever met all the 11 years I have been living. He has to be responsible for his job, as a coach, and he has to help me with all sorts of stuff. So now I will write some very responsible things that my dad does.

Hardworking, focused, and impressive—my dad has to be responsible for his job. To start off he's a principal so he has a lot of papers to keep track of. He knows where every single little piece of paper is. Another reason is he has to be responsible for so many kids at school. One time they thought they lost someone and my dad looked everywhere for the kid. It turned out that her dad just picked her up without telling anyone. Moving right along, he has to prepare teachers for things. If he never told them that certain kids need help, the kid would probably be

having as tough a time as a rhino would trying to jump over a 10-foot fence. Furthermore, he always shows up for work whether he's sick or not. One time he was feeling so bad but he knew that he had a lot of meetings that day and he went to every one. Sure my dad has to stay a little longer after school than teachers, but he will always have time for me and my family for anything. To sum up my thoughts, my dad is very responsible at his job.

My dad is as good as a responsible coach than how many baskets Michael Jordan made. First of all, he has to take care of a lot of wrestlers. If one guy really got hurt, he would get an ice pack for him and usually he would help him walk off the mat. Another reason is if one of his wrestlers didn't have anyone to take him to the match, he would take him. He would even do that if they weren't that spectacular. Moving right along, he teaches me in almost everything I know in the sports that I do. If I'm having a little trouble with something he will show me a better way or help me improve it. Furthermore he tries to make me the best that I can be in the sports that I do. Like when I was having a little trouble with my swing for baseball. He told me not to always swing for the fence—just make good contact with the ball. I tried that and then I could hit the ball a whole lot better. Sure he has a lot of busy days, but he will always have time to coach me with the sports that I do. All in all, my dad is a very responsible coach.

My dad is so responsible that he will help me with everything. To start off he doesn't care if I'm good at something or not. He will always help me. One time when I was having trouble with a double leg, he just told me to just go and don't hold back. I did that and I won. Moving right along, he helps me with the sports I do. He always tells me he will let me do any sport I want to do except for cheerleading. Another reason is he will help me with my homework. When I needed help with my spelling words he would be the one who was there calling them out for me, and I had to spell them. Furthermore he helps me make good choices. He is the one who told me to stick with addition. He helps me pay for things I really want. For example, one time I wanted this game so badly but I didn't have enough money for it. So he gave me the money and I was very happy. Sure he may not get me everything I want, but he will always help me no matter what. All in all, my dad helps me with a whole bunch of stuff.

You might not think that responsibility is a very important thing. I think that it's super important. My dad shows me responsibility everyday with his job, as a coach, and as he helps. I hope that you can understand how important responsibility actually is and how responsible my dad is.

*Shawn Dulin*

Second Place, Grade 5

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Responsibility—what is it? My parents and teachers are always chatting about it. I first got this on my mind when my little sister Jasey was called “irresponsible” by my dad when she came home and could not find her phone.

My dad said, “You are grounded until you can locate your phone!”



My sister might not be responsible, but my mom sure is. At her work she has a lot of responsibility when doing her work. Most importantly, my mom is caring for her patients because she works in a nursing home. If they're thirsty, she'll give them water or ginger ale, and if they are hungry she'll give them some crackers until lunch. Another way she is responsible is recording the meds that she passes out. On the charts, she has to specifically record what time she gave the medicine and what kind was given.

I'll be the first to admit that my mom has the most chores at home. For one, she has to pay bills that she says are stacking up like a mountain. She's always nagging me about having to clean. I would personally have to choose cleaning over school anyway. Which would you choose? She has to do the dishes and cleans out the litter box from our two cats. Doing the laundry is difficult for her because we have so much. She does all of this to keep our house clean. Finally, after all that she cooks supper after work and she makes pretty good, succulent pork chops.

In closing, she still manages to take care of my little sister and me, which she says is a problem because she has to feed our big mouths. She says bath time is the worst because my sister and I don't want to bathe. At the end of the day and after all that, she still loves me. So you do think my mom is responsible?

*Jordan Jones*

Third Place, Grade 5

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My mom is my world! She knows everything about me, inside and out. She is a mom, a wife, a Girl Scout leader, PTO vice president, pet owner, friend, nurse, and she even manages to "go green." It seems as if she is responsible for our entire planet. My world revolves around her and she doesn't even know it.

My brother, my sister, and I all care about school and get good grades. I don't think this could be possible without mom by our sides. She finds herself responsible for all things school. I know no other person who cares about her children's education and school experience as much as she does. She is currently the vice president of my school's PTO (JBM). With this she is totally responsible for the school holiday shop. In my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade year, she gave a challenge to the school to read for one million minutes total and it turned out spectacular. Every year on "Read Across America Day," you can find her in the school helping out without fail. She is also an active member of Band Boosters in my brother's school (SHS).

Girl Scouts is also close to the hearts of me and my sister. Even though Girl Scouts is very demanding and sometimes irritating, she does it for her girls. My mom has been the co-leader of our troop for two years now and plans perfect meetings all the time. Every time cookie season rides into town, she buys lots of boxes to support the cause, and she also stands out in front of lots of stores with frostbitten toes selling a box an hour. One specific time I remember her being responsible was when we were going to camp. My mom was going to be a driver, but she got scheduled to work. She has to work to make a living but instead of letting down five or six girls, she found a replacement—my dad. With great gratitude from my mom, my dad was registered

as a Girl Scout and drove us to camp. Although she was unable to help, she made sure someone was.

There are a great many other things she does to show her responsibility, too many to count. I would tell you about it all, but you may have to read a few hundred more pages. She shows her commitment every day when she cares for three kids, a husband, animals, and our home. A few months ago our cat, Boots, got in a fight and she did everything the vet said to do and more just to nurse him back to health. It was an instinct, being a nurse and all. Another time she proved her responsibility was when my cousin Adam had a social studies project on colonial Williamsburg. Living in Florida, he had never been in Williamsburg, but we had been so she sent him some souvenirs from our trip. They were some colonial period things. She took responsibility for a project 18 hours away. On top of all that she reduces, reuses, and recycles. She amazes me every day.

I could not live without her by my side every second of the day. She commits to everything where no one else feels they can or want to do the job. She doesn't have to do these things, she just knows it is right. She takes responsibility. My world revolves around her and she doesn't even know it.

*Megan Dillard*

First Place, Grade 6

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Today the most amazing thing happened! Someone made me explore responsibility with a whole new pair of eyes. She was responsible and kind at the same time. Her name (since she is a teacher) is Mrs. Wentling

This morning she drove me to school—yes, to school. But not just me, she took my brothers too. Our schedule is tough. We get up at 5 a.m. and leave for school at 6 a.m. That means we have to get dressed, eat, and wash up in about an hour. Our mom thankfully is a cook at a school, so we attend her breakfast club. (Not one of my first choices, but at least we get to school.) There is just one tiny problem—we no longer attend her school. It's an elementary school and we attend intermediate—now what? How will we get to school? My mom will be busy behind the counter cooking and won't have time to drive us to school, and none of the other workers can either. Well, we had a lucky situation. Mrs. Wentling's son goes to my mom's breakfast club so when Mrs. Wentling came to drop off her son she saw my mom was having trouble. She found out why and offered to take us to school. That was nice of her, wasn't it? Of course there was a problem again. She has such a tiny car for three kids and a teacher to fit in. So we squished in and I mean squished. It was pretty responsible of her because she not only remembered to get us every morning, but she also remembered to watch us every morning. I am very thankful for having a responsible adult to pick us up and watch us every morning.

Okay, I've noticed something for the past couple of days: she has been working extra hard with one of my brothers in reading, one of his worse subjects. His grade isn't too bad, but it could use some improvement. So I was watching and I noticed soon that she worked on her own time.

Time she could've been looking up something on the computer or grading papers, or copying some homework papers. Instead she chose to help out my brother. She kept teaching him important techniques, telling him easy ways to do things, interacting with him, giving him practice papers, and helping him read better. It made me watch in a nice, warm, good way. Soon the report cards came in. I was scared for his sake. What if all that hard work went to waste? Well apparently I worried too much. He went from a B- to an A+. I was amazed. How could she do that? It amazed me.

Not only did she amazingly help my brother, but she helped me as well. Okay, I have a reputation for being smart. Not the smartest person, but just enough to get people thinking I'm smart. Only in reading and math of course—people never see my writing grades. Not too good. It was a 2 on the DSTP. Mrs. Wentling must have noticed because one day she called on me, privately and asked me to come to her desk. I slowly rose from my seat, embarrassed. I thought I did something wrong. “What did I do?” screamed through my head over and over again like a broken record player. I sat down on the chair next to her desk. Almost as if she could read my mind (and my facial expression) she rose and said, “Don't worry, you're not in trouble.” That sent relief through my body. I immediately sunk in my seat. She explained my grades in writing, and I was not happy or proud of them. She also said how she wanted to help. I smiled because I wanted help. She did the same as she did for my brother. She explained good processes for writing a piece. Then she gave me some practice work and read other work to me so I could give it a grade (1-5). The next writing prompt came out. I was nervous. I used the techniques and did what she taught me. The grades came out and thankfully I got a 4. On the next one, I got a 5. Boy was I a happy camper!

I am happy to say I want to be like Mrs. Wentling—responsible, nice and able to get things done on time.

*Abbey Greenwood*

Second Place, Grade 6

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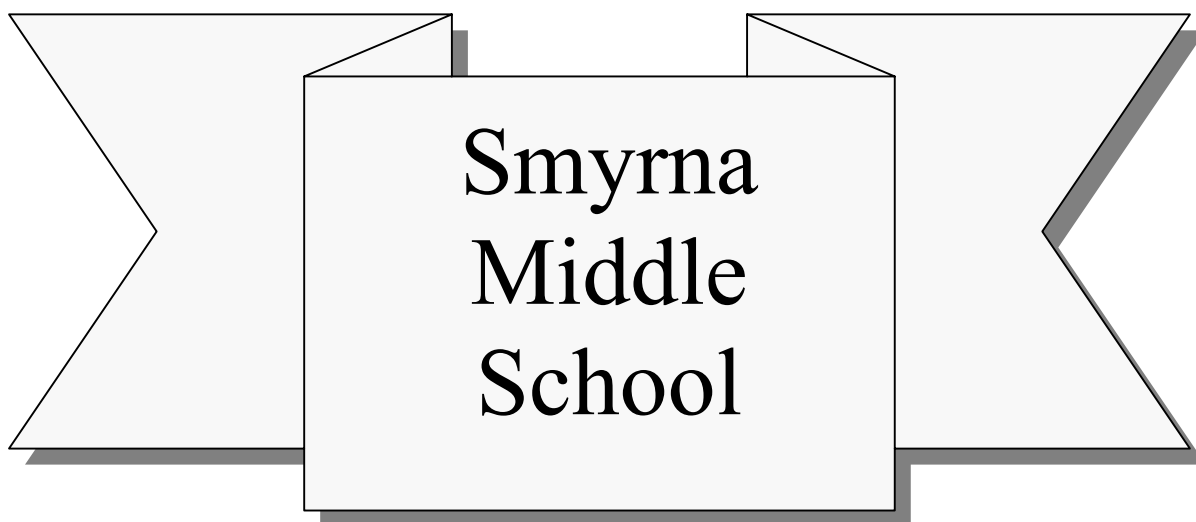
My mom is a very important person in our house and to everyone in it. She is very responsible and has a lot of responsibilities. My mom is a very respected person for the things she has done and with respect comes responsibilities. I want to tell you how she is responsible.

My mom is responsible because she always has food for our stomachs, a roof over our heads, and our everyday needs. She is always cleaning our house and it's always looking good; she never complains because she knows it's her responsibility. For example, one day she woke up on the weekend at 5:30 a.m. and started cleaning. When my sisters and I woke up the house was spotless and breakfast was made. My mom does our laundry and feeds our pets. I help with a lot of cleaning, and I help my two little sisters, Cheyanne and Autumn, when they need help and mom is busy.

My mom is a very big influence on me and my sisters. From her we now know to pick up after ourselves, and respect ourselves and everyone. Although she and my dad can play and be big kids, they still know their responsibilities. Now we're learning to be responsible just like them.

*Destiny Baker*

Third Place, Grade 6



*Grades 7 and 8*

Wounded soldiers were sprawled everywhere on the floor of the refugee center. Blood-soaked band-aids and treating patients was all that was to be looked forward to for the next three months. My aunt, a very responsible person, is a military nurse in Iraq, and that is her job. From treating soldiers to rescuing them on the field of battle, she does it all. My aunt is the most responsible person I know because she treats injured soldiers, rescues them on the field of battle, and also treats foreign citizens.

The biggest part of my aunt's job is curing wounded or injured soldiers. This job is a job that requires much responsibility. It requires much responsibility because one time my aunt had a patient who had a really bad cut that was infected. Every day new bandages had to be applied to the cut, plus a cream that would help fight infection. If these tasks hadn't been carried out, the soldier could have died.

Another job that my aunt performs is rescuing injured soldiers. In a couple of cases, rescuing the wounded wasn't exactly a piece of cake. For example, there was one time when the stretcher that came down from the helicopter actually broke. So with the limited time she had, my aunt had to fix the strap using only her bare hands. In the end, the soldier was finally safe and sound in the chopper.

Even though healing our soldiers is the main priority for my aunt, she also treats foreign citizens. When foreign citizens are injured from car bombs, enemy fire, etc. my aunt and her team tend to them even though it's not in her job description. My aunt helps these unfortunate victims because it's not their fault that someone just decided to rampage their village. My aunt always helps people in need whether they're American, Iranian, or Iraqi. It doesn't matter to her.

Responsible people are good role models. Role models are important for many reasons—the things that they do affect everyone around them and create better communities. With all of these good communities influenced by responsible people, the world will be a much better and happier place.

*Jordan Yeomans*

Second Place, Grade 7

Being a school principal has numerous responsibilities that most students don't give him credit for. Coming into the school building every day ready to deal with anything can be very challenging. Adding to those complications is the fact that the entire student body is divided into three categories: the students who look up to him as a role model and a person they admire, ones who fear him due to him being an authority figure, and those who are generally just rebellious due to the fact that he provides the consequences for their day-to-day behavior. Mrs. Williams has to think about all of his students everyday and that does not end with the dismissal bell. Mr. Williams is responsible because he ensures the safety of the entire student body, oversees that educational guidelines are met, and requires that students be adequately prepared for a successful future.

Mr. Williams is responsible because he ensures the safety of the entire student body. This is done in various ways. He tries his hardest to maintain an atmosphere where students feel safe and respected. Violence is not tolerated and a strict discipline code is enforced for those who disobey the student handbook. Students are expected to treat each other the way they would want to be treated. Mr. Williams feels that anything less is totally unacceptable.

He is also responsible for overseeing that education guidelines are met. This requires various policies that he must be sure the staff is clearly aware of. These policies must be strictly followed. For example the state-wide DSTP test that students participate in yearly is a reflection of the lessons and material that have been taught throughout the school year. The results of these tests not only show how the students are progressing in their education, but how well the principal and the teachers are doing their jobs. Various people observe these statistics and he strives for the highest scores possible.

Another way Mr. Williams shows responsibility is by requiring that his students be adequately prepared for a successful future. It is clearly known that the student population in the Smyrna School District is growing at a rapid pace. Although he is not solely responsible for new construction of the district's educational facilities, his ideas, opinions and recommendations are heard. When the number of students in a class makes it hard for classmates to concentrate on their studies, this makes it impossible to learn. Mr. Williams sees that the student-teacher ratio is appropriate for his students to succeed in reaching their educational goals. He wants every student to have a fair chance of making something of their lives.

In closing, responsible people make the world a better place to live. Without them, the world would be crazy and hectic. People who show responsibility are significant role models. They are accountable and trustworthy human beings who can help make a difference in the world.

*Kiersten Haas*

Third Place, Grade 7

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One clear, brisk summer night, I was standing on my front porch looking across the foggy dark lake. Through the trees I saw a tall spire of thick black smoke. Suddenly a loud bang echoed across the now well-lit lake from the burning trees on the shore. There was an explosion and then it was as bright as day. Now that I could see, I looked back across the lake and saw men running frantically around with hoses attempting to douse the ever-growing flames. Firemen are the most responsible people that I know because they risk their lives every time they fight a fire, they save lives, and they help their co-workers.

After the initial shock of the monstrous explosion across the lake had set in, I was struck with panic a second time when I thought of the firemen in the devastating explosion. I thought no one could have survived such an explosion. I still saw men running up and down the shore. Every time the firemen fight a fire they risk their lives to save the lives of others. They put others before themselves. The firemen continued fighting the fire as though there was no explosion. They continued because it was their job, their responsibility to save the men and women caught

in the path of this inferno. As I was watching the men walk the fine line between life and death, I could only stare in awe.

After watching for about twenty minutes or so, I noticed that they were actually watching each other's backs. While one or two were dousing the flames another would watch for signs of danger and unexpected surprises. I guess that this is how they lived through the explosion. They must have seen it coming. The others must have saved twenty or thirty men from being burnt alive.

The next day the newspaper was delivered and the front page read, "Twenty-nine people saved from fire." The article said that the firemen had pulled twenty-nine people from the smoldering rubble left in the wake of an explosion caused by an underground gas leak. There was also an interview from a seven year old that had been in the explosion. "I am so glad that I am here today. After the explosion I was covered in debris, but luckily it was not burning. It took only five minutes for me to found."

In conclusion, the world needs responsible people such as firemen. Without responsible people the world would never advance. There would be no safety, advancement, and no good role models in the world. These role models create a better life and a better world.

*Nick Marthaler*

Second place, Grade 8

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He stopped this peculiar looking car. This car had no license plate and tinted windows. He walked up slowly and cautiously, very cautiously, because he didn't know what was on the other side of those windows. The person had a gun right there. He paused for a second out of shock. Luckily he had a partner who saw what had happened and put a gun to the villain's head. The villain stopped and dropped the gun as quickly as if he was holding a hot potato. They put the criminal in handcuffs and took him to the police car where there are hard, dirty seats. The seats were so hard that they made sitting on the ground feel great. They searched the car. They found two other guns and 10 kilos of marijuana. Now they knew what he was trying to protect. This cop might seem like an ordinary cop, but to me he is a hero and also my dad. I think he is also the most responsible person I know because he is a hero at his job, he is a hero to my family, and he comes home and does a better job than the ordinary dad.

My dad is one of those great cops that you see on all of those movies such as Mike and Larry on "Bad Boys." He is always willing to risk it all to save other's lives just like those guys. My dad will go undercover, to a different country, just to help other cops catch the bad guy. He does all sorts of missions like once it was a dark night and he was staking out to catch a TV thief. It had been five hours and still no thief, so he staked out for another two hours. He spotted a strange looking car. With his great police instincts he follows. He was careful not to reveal his position. He trails behind slowly, and he saw the guy go into a house. He also went in. He had his gun really close to him and was walking slowly making sure not to make a sound. He spotted the criminal; he was trying to carry a 40-inch LCD flat screen TV. My dad came up behind him, put



the gun to his head, and commanded him to “put the gun down.” He locked him up and was a hero.

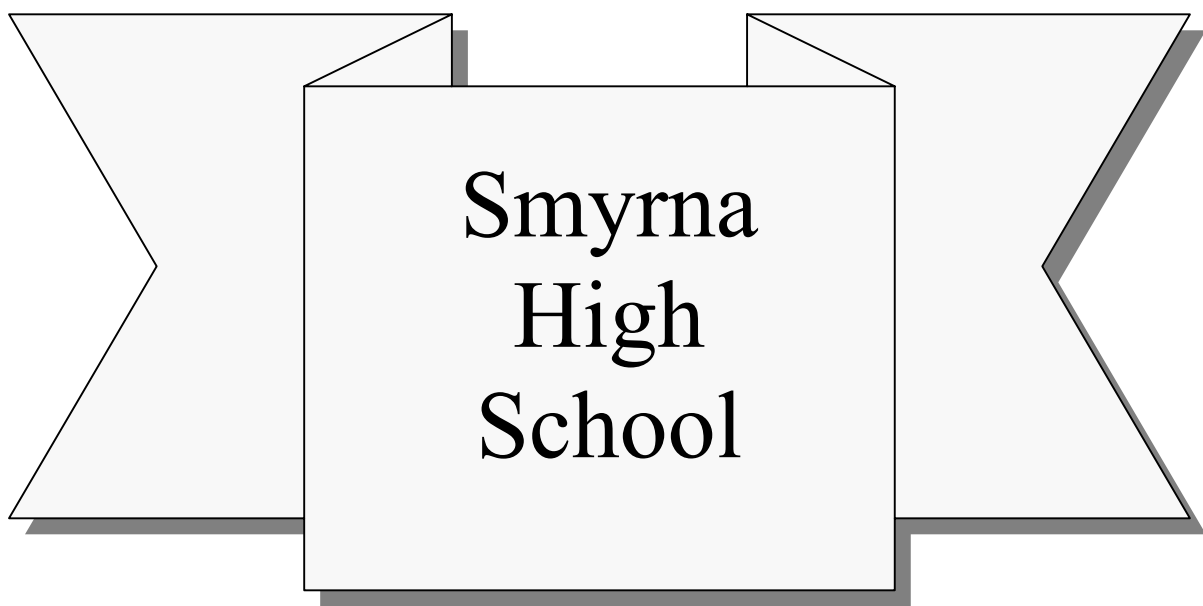
My dad, a three-time cop of the year, is a hero to my family and me. I just love reading articles about my dad. It makes me rejoice and in my head I am thinking, “Yea, we are famous.” I like the articles when it talks about him making big arrests such as: office Jose Baerga caught one of the biggest drug dealers in Delaware. It just makes me feel good. My dad is a top cop. Another thing that makes me very happy is when they announce it on the news on TV. Then they show things like video clips and the crime scene, or even show him talking. I think it’s so cool. Sometimes I even say in my head, “Wow, that’s my dad.”

Even though at work he is the one shooting three pointers, or hitting home runs for the police, that is how he is at home too. Jose comes home after the hard, long day at work and slaves over a hot stove cooking. Unlike other dads that I know, he cooks, cleans, plays with us, and most of all he cares. He cares about our health, what we do at school, and everything else good parents should. He cares, which is very hard to find and is touching to me.

In conclusion without responsible people in this world we would be in a dump with people doing nothing and getting into trouble. I think without responsible people our world would be filled with people like Pac Man Jones or many more gangster-like people. More people in this world need to look down the road and see the pros and cons of the situation in which they are. Then maybe our world will be filled with responsible people like my dad.

*Michael Baerga*

Third Place, Grade 8



*Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12*

“Be responsible!” We are told this by our teachers and our parents. We have been told since kindergarten to be responsible. But what exactly is responsibility? You could say to be responsible is to do your homework, be organized, and take up for your wrongs. However, responsibility goes beyond that. To be responsible is a hard task to accomplish. Responsibility covers every aspect of your life, and, especially as an adult, can be a struggle. I have learned from the best exactly what responsibility is. My mom-mom would be a remarkable PBS student. She is respectful, perseverant, compassionate, a leader, and above all responsible.

My mom-mom is the best model of responsibility I know. Her biggest and most long-lasting achievement is the career she recently retired from. She worked for forty years at Astra-Zeneca. Forty years is an extremely long time to be working, especially at the same job. She worked for many years after my pop-pop retired to take care of his mom. It takes a lot of dedication and responsibility to wake up every morning for forty years and go to work. I admire that commitment.

Commitment and dedication are two ways of demonstrating responsibility. There are other ways to show that you are a responsible person. My mom and dad are often busy and don’t have time to watch and take care of my sisters. Instead of paying for day care, my mom-mom watches my sisters for free. It can be a tough job watching two toddlers alone, but once a week she is responsible for them. My mom-mom also volunteers to help out the elderly at a dialysis center. That shows true compassion and responsibility.

Most people would consider responsibility under the “Do your job on time” category. When my grandparents moved into their house thirty years ago, it was worth approximately \$75,000. Within five years of owning their home they paid off the mortgage. They never pay their bills late and always spend their money wisely. My mom-mom is also very honest. Honesty is a huge part of responsibility. She will always admit if she does something wrong, but that’s not a common occurrence. She is also very trustworthy.

Responsibility is a characteristic people look for in a student, employee, or spouse. Many things comprise being responsible. Almost anyone can be trustworthy, or organized, or dedicated. But having all three qualities and being able to use them on an everyday basis is a rare find. My mom-mom has all those qualities and more. Therefore she is by far the most responsible person I know.

*Jordan Whitley*

First Place, Grade 9

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Anthony Robbins once said, “Life is a gift and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give back by becoming more.” When hearing this, I think of one person who this really applies to. My grandmother (or as we call her, my mom-mom) is this person.

My mom-mom has four other siblings; two of which cannot drive due to their eyesight. She takes them every Thursday morning for groceries, or to their doctor’s appointments, or to other

stores when needed. She is the oldest of the four, and has always taken care of them. She helps out friends when they call. She does all this for others and she is 79! She taught me many things such as always help people when help is needed because they will return the favor when you need it the most. She has taught me to always take responsibility for my actions, and to do the things you have promised to do. I have learned that she is always there with a caring hand.

Last spring, we learned that her sister, Martha my great-aunt, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Her health failed rapidly in the following six months. The entire time, my mom-mom stood by her, traveling back and forth between her house and my aunt's, taking her to the hospital on an almost daily basis, and making sure she was comfortable. However, chemotherapy wasn't enough and she was soon hospitalized. After being in the hospital for a period of time, they sent her home in the care of hospice for her final days. When she passed, it was very hard on the entire family, yet my mom-mom took care and managed everything with some help from the family.

My mom-mom has always been there for me and is an important part of my life. She took care of me and my older brother when we were younger during the summer while my mother worked. She always put our comfort ahead of hers. We were always entertained and she made the best sweet potato pie around. If she could not be there for us, she would make sure we were watched by another close relative before she left.

My mom-mom is the most responsible person I know, and deserves all the respect I have and more. She is a woman of natural grace, and handles everything with care and attention. She always puts others in front of herself. She is constantly doing something for another. "Responsibility is the price of greatness"—Winston Churchill's words really ring true.

*Sarah Koehler*

Second Place, Grade 9

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Responsibility is the trait in which a person is reliable and follows through on commitments. Not many people in this world are reliable and trustworthy these days though. But there are a few people for whom responsibility is second nature. One of these people I know is my Uncle John. I will tell you why I chose him, how he is responsible, and why he is above the rest.

John Shurtz is a renowned member of the U.S. Army and one awesome uncle in my family. My uncle is currently stationed in China, representing the U.S. Army as an attaché in the Chinese-American Embassy. He is there for three years, and I miss him a lot. The military has shaped my uncle into the great man he is. Responsibility and honesty shine from him like a spotlight.

Many a time my uncle has given me lectures about responsibility and traits that make a man. Even though I have strayed and wandered from the path a few times, my uncle has always brought me back every time. Since my uncle is gone and hard to reach, I sometimes find it difficult to keep myself in line. Every time I feel like I'm about to break, I remember the words he said to me in all of those lectures and realize I'm being stupid.

Another thing about my uncle that is really responsible is that being the attaché of the American Embassy, my uncle has a lot of responsibility dealing with his job. An example is that during this summer, my uncle escorted former President Bush to the Beijing Olympics. That in itself is a big responsibility, for if my uncle let anything happen to the president, he'd be in a lot of trouble.

The military has shaped my uncle into the man he is. I look up to him, for I too wish to join the army and become the greatest weapon designer/creator ever. But if I have any hope of doing that, I will have to show the military three things: that I am willing to learn and listen from what the military teaches, that I will dedicate myself to my duties, and that I am as responsible and respectable as my uncle.

*Eli Krause*

Third Place, Grade 9

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The television is blaring after everything is said and done—the voices of spokespeople so loud and obnoxious that I wish I could forget them. An endless cocktail of commercials is introduced, and all are met with indifference. A specific commercial, however, then comes on and it's one of the ones I always remember. It's about life insurance; I'm almost completely sure it is and it's the one that showcases responsibility. Watching it makes me think of responsibility and who the most responsible person in my life is. No matter how many times I see that commercial, only one person immediately comes to mind—my mother. A hard-working, reliable woman whose responsible nature shines through when she's at home, at work, and during any potential situation that is thrust upon her on a daily basis.

Daily my mother is the one to go to with questions, comments, or concerns that you may have believed previously to have no answer. Even if your questions are seemingly unintelligent or confusing, she will answer them to the best of her ability or will responsibly recommend you to someone who can. In addition to this quality, she is the stable point within our family. "She is the rock of our household that keeps us all sane and happy," if you please. My mother is always there and would never let us go without clothing and nourishment or especially shelter. Without her, I feel that we would be unorganized and beside ourselves with grief. Perhaps, then, that is why she is such a vital influence in the work place.

At work as one can expect my mother is a "busy bee" for lack of a better term, and almost doesn't have time for a moment's rest. She cares for three young children, a career choice that requires all of the responsibility that one can muster and then some. Each and every day she works hard and tackles everything with authority in a timely manner. For example, the children are learning to read, identify the letter of the alphabet, and tell time respectively. Every time any of them gets off task, she reminds them of the work they have to do and resumes their teaching. Additionally, she is constantly and successfully keeping the three youngsters within set boundaries to keep them safe and out of any trouble that they may seek out. Because of being

such an on-task person whose schedule is constantly hectic, her being such an organized person ultimately helps outside of the work place.

In our house, the calendars receive a new addition every day without fail. My mother is constantly planning familial visits and other events; I don't know how she manages to do it all. The fact that she takes on the role of "planner for the family" is in itself astounding. It exemplifies her amount of reliability and showcases that she is a mother and friend who, more times than not, thinks less of herself and more of others. Such is the case when she provided comfort to an ailing friend, someone who is feeling desperate, and does everything in her power to restore elation back into that person's life. Perhaps that is the reason why her correspondences from years past have continued on as long as they have.

Many times in my life I have been met with compromising situations, most of which were resolved with pieces of advice I couldn't have lived without. Most of those times, the advice has come straight from the mouth of my mother nudging me to do the right thing—the responsible thing. No matter where she is or what she's doing, my mother is always willing to help and exudes responsibility even if it's past midnight and her eyes are bloodshot from sleep deprivation. It is because of reasons such as these that make me believe, some days; the term "responsible" was created just to describe her.

*Sarah Hammond*

First Place, Grade 10

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He has made the dean's list. He has formed a rock band and has kept a steady job for a good three years now. He has been driven to work hard for these accomplishments. My boyfriend Evan Langshaw knows that responsibility and hard work go hand in hand. Hard work, drive, and acknowledgement are three factors of responsibility. Evan is a reliable and, most importantly, a responsible person because he knows what he is responsible for and why he is responsible for it.

When it comes to his school work, Evan makes it a top priority to get it done and done well. If he is unsure about a yet-to-be-grasped concept or method, he'll ask for help so he can understand better. He may also get the books out to study prior to a test. Evan is currently attending Delaware Tech for automotive training. He's always had a love for cars. His love and fascination with them is what has made him so driven to learn more about them and all their ins and outs. The downside is the roughly forty-five minute drive upstate to the Delaware Tech Stanton Campus. He takes responsibility for his education and knows that obtaining good grades and working hard will get him a successful career. Making the dean's list isn't a bad start.

Guitar playing is second nature for Evan. Receiving his first acoustic guitar at the age of six and an electric guitar around the age of seven, you could only imagine how talented he has become with years of hard work and determination. Evan has been part of several bands in the past; each has had its falling out. His musical hopes didn't die there because his determination to form a solid band didn't let them. He's currently the guitarist in the virtually new heavy rock band "Langshaw." Along with writing the band's music, he is also responsible for keeping the web

page updated, making practice dates, and promotional activities. He knows contributing the effort and hard work that makes a well put together heavy rock band is indeed one of his great responsibilities.

Evan has been working a steady job for three years now. He works as a sauté cook at a restaurant. He's in charge of cooking, food preparation, and proper storage of the food at the restaurant. He has bills to pay and knows that he has a responsibility to work in order to pay his bills. He is driven to work because he is aware of his responsibilities. Evan takes initiative at work and many times he has to do tasks that may not be part of his duties, but he knows they must be done.

Evan's traits exemplify how he is responsible. He acknowledges his responsibilities and knows that hard work and drive benefit him. He shows these traits every day in his good work ethic, in dedication to his craft, and his overall attitude towards life. Unlike many others, Evan appreciates all of the responsibilities he has because at the end of the day, he knows they only benefit him.

*Martina Cooper*

Second Place, Grade 10

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To be responsible, one must be organized and dependable at the same time. They should know what needs to be done, how to accomplish it, and how to be set and prepared to do so. When someone is known as being responsible, they are not characterized as lazy, messy, or careless. These people are often spoken of highly and respected. No matter how typical of a choice this might be amongst students, I believe my mother is a wonderfully responsible person. Although it may seem as if responsibility comes along with motherhood, many mothers can show you that this is not the case. Luckily for myself and many others, my mom is the type of person who manages their priorities just right with her hard work, caring for others, and time management.

My mom is not just a stay-at-home mom. She doesn't just sit home and pick up after my sister, father, and me—although that alone is a big enough job for anyone. She has a job of her own that she goes to every day on top of her typical duties as a mom. Each morning after she gets my sister and me up and ready for school, she sets off to a small farm that sits along the road to Woodland Beach. Once she is there, she does not get a chance to sit down and take a break. My mom doesn't get a "lunch hour" or "sick day." She takes care of horses and these animals will not understand what is happening if she just does not show up one day. They still need to be fed, watered, and exercised just like any human. So from the time she arrives until the time she leaves, mom busies herself around the farm feeding the horses, grooming them, cleaning stalls, giving the horses medicine, jogging them, and taking them outside for some space to run. When she is finally done, she heads home and usually does not smell as fresh as she should, so she cleans herself up and steps right into the role of "mom." She bustles around, doing laundry, picking up books and empty chip bags (that somehow found their way to the floor), feeding the many animals that run around and each beg for more attention than next, racing to the grocery store to stock up the refrigerator and cabinets, and vacuuming up the dust and dirt the rest of us

track into the house. It is then time for her to pick up my sister, make dinner, and help us both with our homework. Her day is filled from the beginning until the end but she stays consistent and never lets anyone down.

When you care about someone, you want to help them out in any way possible and enable them to be the very best they can be. Apparently Mom cares about tons of people. No matter where she is or what she is doing, she is always trying to help someone. Whether she is taking care of a pet while a friend of hers is going away for a vacation, giving someone a ride, helping my friends and me understand something difficult in school, or running an errand for someone, she is always on the go and ready to help. If she says she is going to help someone out, she will not back out of her commitment, and she will do her very best at whatever she is trying to do. When mom thinks that someone needs a little extra attention, she adds on to her responsibilities without a second thought. Someone isn't feeling well? Mom is ready to get them whatever they need, and make life easier for them by doing those little things that seem so simple normally, but really zap your energy when you are under the weather. Although she only has so much time in a day, she makes sure to fit in what is important to her no matter what.

Every person only has twenty-four hours in a day. Which is the same as saying one thousand four hundred and forty minutes, or eighty-six thousand four hundred seconds. Whichever way you choose to say it, these all still come out to the same amount of time and no one is special enough to get even one more second than someone else. Sometimes though, I wonder if my mom has a secret way of sneaking more time into her day. She has tons of errands, chores, and jobs to get done, but they all seem to be finished exactly when they need to be. Anything that needs to be bought is gotten ahead of time, anything that needs to be cleaned is ready and waiting the day before, and anything broken is fixed by the next time you try to use it. She knows how much time she should spend on each task, and because of that she always seems to get everything done. Without her I would be a wrinkled mess who wakes up too late and never has anything with her because she loses everything. Mom takes everything in stride and never seems to break a sweat.

Responsibility is crucial as you continue through life. Without it people seem chaotic and disorganized. Although I know my mom is human and cannot be expected to be perfect and have every detail of life planned out and set up just right, I know that she can always be counted on. She puts others before herself and always seems to know just what needs to be done. Life is hard, but at least with her on my side I know someone will always be there to help me out and keep me headed in the right direction.

*Chelsea Botsch*

Third Place, Grade 10

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In total I have 21 aunts and 16 uncles. That's hard to believe, right? Although not all these aunts and uncles are related to me, I still consider them my family. In life you meet people with whom you bond, and it's as if you share the same blood. One "aunt" in particular who I've known for five years is Debbie Snyder. Not only could she easily pass as my mom's twin, but also her



middle name is “Responsible.” Aunt Debbie is a perfect icon of responsibility because she’s always reliable, dependable, and over achieving in everything she does.

Wouldn’t it be nice to have a guardian angel who you could count on in any situation? I don’t mean to brag, but it is pretty wonderful. I know I can rely on Aunt Debbie even during the hardest of times. This past summer I passed out at work and was taken to the hospital. My parents were away but when the ambulance arrived at the hospital I was indescribably relieved to see that Aunt Debbie had rushed to Christiana to be with me. I had been expecting to be alone, but her being there for me showed that she’s capable of any size responsibility. From allowing me to use her name as a reference on a resume, to holding my little, dehydrated hand in a hospital—Aunt Debbie is always there.

Debbie Snyder is a lifesaver, and I’m not talking about the fruity candy rings. Her strong characteristic of being a responsible person makes her a dependable friend. I can call her for help with just about anything. When I struggle to find a specific word I need, she’s my human dictionary and thesaurus. Last year I had to make a website for homework the same weekend I had a soccer tournament. Aunt Debbie graciously granted me permission to take her laptop and do the website on the three-hour drive to the tournament. I’ll never be able to stop thanking her for that single deed that saved my science grade.

Perhaps Aunt Deb’s most significant display of responsibility is her work ethic. Being a librarian at North Smyrna Elementary, she loves the children as if they were her own—all 500 of them. When “Mrs. Spider,” as the kindergarteners call her, doesn’t finish her daily work, she’ll take it home and finish it on her own time. Aunt Debbie puts everyone before herself, especially her family. She wants the best for her household to such an extent that she’s taking four night classes to earn her teaching certificate. Talk about some serious multi-tasking.

You don’t meet too many people these days who you can call truly responsible, which makes Mrs. Snyder so unique. My theory is that God placed her on earth to impact people’s lives like she has mine. She portrays responsibility in all aspects of her life, from big things like taking care of the family to those small things like being a shoulder to lean on. It’s unsung heroes like my “aunt” who keep this world turning smoothly.

*Melissa Hubert*

Second Place, Grade 11

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Throughout my youth and as I’ve grown up, I have known a lot of responsible people. My mom, who is a teacher at Smyrna High School, takes on a lot of responsibility. My aunt, who has been laid off from her job, has responsibility for being able to support her family with what she has. My girlfriend, friends, and other family members do take on responsibility but not like my dad does.

My dad’s name is George Hutchinson. My dad is the most responsible human being I’ve ever known. He has had to take responsibility ever since he was a teenager. Growing up as a

backwoods kid, having to help my grandfather do work that was too much for my dad to handle, he still got the job done. When my grandfather was in an accident, my dad along with the rest of the family had to pitch in to help and take up even more responsibility. My grandfather was paralyzed from the neck down. In order to help support the family, my dad took on two jobs, and when he got home he had to cut firewood and do other chores.

After my grandfather passed away, my dad decided to start his own family. He married my mom and took a job in Delaware City at a place called Air Products, Inc. My grandfather had been a truck driver for this company earlier, and my dad decided to give it a shot by working there as a maintenance man. Later, dad became the assistant site manager and was so for 24 years. After being bought out of the job in 2005, he decided to start his own business. In the summer of 2006, Handy Hutch L.L.C. was in business. Handy Hutch is a handyman business.

My dad is about to turn 50 on February 24. He is not just a little older, but he is a little wiser too. Though he's had his share of injuries while on the job, he knows he has to keep working to support my mom and me. Right now he suffers from bad knees, bad shoulders, and an injured rotator cuff that will require surgery. Like I said, he's a little wiser because he knows his limits and knows when to stop before he really injures himself.

If you know my dad, he's a really nice guy; if you don't know him he can look intimidating. But looks and personality don't outrun responsibility. Making appointments for customers performing the labor, and calculating the total cost and amount of hours worked takes a lot of responsibility and organization. If I could pick anyone to be the number one responsible person I know, it would be my blue-collar, hardworking, backwoods dad.

*Andrew Hutchinson*

Third Place, Grade 11

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In all my life, I have always struggled to understand the concept of responsibility. From a young age, we are told to "do what you're told," and to "follow the rules." My parents would always enforce these platitudes because they told me it would make me "responsible." Being a little kid, I had no idea what it meant to be responsible, but I now know how important it is to be a responsible citizen. I have now come to realize that through the great wisdom of my parents, I have learned how to be reliable. My mother has taught me the great significance of being dependable, and is the most responsible person I know.

As long as I have lived, I have known my mom to be a responsible, loving and caring mother and wife. She raised my two brothers and me with just the right mix of love, discipline, and teaching; and, as a result, we turned out to be pretty good kids. Also, my mother never neglected her duty to provide and cook the daily meals for my family, and she always made sure none of us went hungry. She also made sure the house was clean and tidy, never leaving any chore undone for very long. When it comes to domestic commitment, I have never known anyone so reliable.

In the work force, my mother has also shown commendable commitment. She is currently working two part-time jobs and never fails to perform all necessary duties. My mom works as a substitute teacher and as a bookkeeper for our church. As a teacher she is responsible for the behavior and learning of each and every student in her classes. Additionally, she is searching for a full-time job to replace teaching. She works this hard in order to help provide for our family in any way she can. To me that's truly being responsible for our family.

My mom is also known to be very reliable within the social sphere. For example, she recently joined a book club with some of her friends, and has committed herself to reading their book on a set schedule. Additionally she has volunteered her time to help out with the SHS sports boosters by periodically updating the bulletin board in McDonalds. She also serves others with great self-control in church and at social events, always be loving, peaceful, kind, calm, hospitable, and understanding to all those around her.

My mother is truly the most responsible person I know. She constantly and consistently displays immense self-control in all aspects of life: in school with students, at work, at home, and with family in our house. Through my mother I have learned much of what it means to be reliable and follow through on commitments, including being responsible for my actions as a family member, student, and citizen. Because of my mother, I am now better able to demonstrate responsibility through service to others and self-control.

*Ben Natrín*

First Place, Grade 12

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The caller finally rolled over voicemail just as I had registered it as the twentieth call in the last hour. Twenty phone calls—all for my mother. It was a Wednesday night and thick snow was falling outside the window. School had been excused early, much to my mother's dismay, and a lot of tedious work was ahead of her. My mother, Cindy Deakyne, is head of the Smyrna Junior Volleyball League (JVL), a growing volleyball program for kids from third to eighth grade. She spends every Monday and Wednesday teaching the fun and skill that lies in the sport of volleyball. Not only does she run the JVL, but she also has an important position with the state with many responsibilities including overseeing the state's affordable housing portfolio and supervising a large staff. Her hardest job of all is a mother of two and a devoted wife. Her life is overflowing with responsibilities, and she is usually short on time to fulfill them. Somehow she always does the right thing; she's always a responsible person.

Problems arise from responsibility when one's time is not correctly managed and commitments are not fulfilled. My mother has this skill down perfectly and manages to support and run more than just her family. In the winter, she runs a children's volleyball league with almost ninety members. She creates each practice, explains the night's practice to all the coaches, and puts all her efforts into every practice making sure every child enjoys the experience, learns about being a part of a team, and picks up a few volleyball skills before the end of the season. When practice is forced to be cancelled, she even takes more of her time to call each and every member of the league to let him or her know. With all of that responsibility she still cooks dinner for the entire

family, and has even increased slightly as her youngest child (me) now is a senior in high school. She's always there to help, helping me apply to colleges and for scholarships as well. My mother takes care of everyone in the household, using her wonderful moral values and intelligence to influence the family to make better choices and become better people each day.

My mom is a consummate responsible volunteer. She is a mentor for elementary school kids, belongs to several non-profit organizations that she feels make a difference to the community, and always says "yes" when someone asks her for her help. She believes in not "talking the talk" but "walking the walk." Her responsibilities with her volunteer efforts inspire me to also volunteer for many school activities and organizations such as volunteer coaching little kids, working in my church, working with the elderly, and coordinating activities as an officer of the Student Government Association.

My mother is brimming with responsibility. It shines through her personality, virtues, and morals, and her everyday activities at work and home; and it shines through to me. She runs her entire family and so much more; all the success, all with love, and I only hope I can be as kind and responsible a person someday.

*Caryn Deakyne*  
Second Place, Grade 12

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## *HONORABLE MENTION*

### SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Leonard Kotowski	Kindergarten
De'Marius Lee	Kindergarten
Brandon Pastuch	Kindergarten
Audrey Price	Kindergarten
Taylor Steele	Kindergarten

Danielle Guirguis	Grade 1
Josiha Harris	Grade 1
Douglas Mancini	Grade 1
Kayshaun Massey	Grade 1
Teyonna Tucker	Grade 1

Daphne Hastings	Grade 2
Mya Montejo	Grade 2
Brianna O'Brien	Grade 2
Shawn Poore	Grade 2
Wyatt Zlock	Grade 2

Emmy Brittingham	Grade 3
Bailey Davis	Grade 3
June Lupinetti	Grade 3
Alec Shalk	Grade 3
Sarah Workman	Grade 3

Arthur Ashe	Grade 4
Colleen Henderson	Grade 4
Brian Rhoades	Grade 4
Davynn Roberts	Grade 4
Jordan Sinclair	Grade 4

### CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harmony Anderson	Kindergarten
Gabriella Davis	Kindergarten
Corey Lacy	Kindergarten
Amaya Ridgeway	Kindergarten
Adam Zobel	Kindergarten

Rebecca Brown	Grade 1
Annastasia Mahan	Grade 1
Ashton Pelton	Grade 1
Logan Kosky	Grade 1
Jennifer Sloven	Grade 1

Dylan Chi	Grade 2
Kathryn Emerson	Grade 2
Jordan Hayes	Grade 2
Savanna Pollard	Grade 2
Tanner Wynne	Grade 2

Gary Cimaglia	Grade 3
Jasmine Hendy	Grade 3
Hunter Moyer	Grade 3
Brittney Rosello	Grade 3
Jeffrey (J. T.) Turner	Grade 3

Kasi Duke	Grade 4
Samantha Sawyer	Grade 4
Adrienne Shelton	Grade 4
Abigayle Troiani	Grade 4
Taylor Zendler	Grade 4

### NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Colton Bowie	Kindergarten
Nioje Briscoe	Kindergarten
Marquis Sharp	Kindergarten
Luke Toulson	Kindergarten
Matthew Verucci	Kindergarten

Abigail Conway	Grade 1
Alanna Halter	Grade 1
Justin Korup	Grade 1
Cassidy Markel	Grade 1

Chrysta Aspinall	Grade 4
Sianea Baker	Grade 4
Jadiel Irizarry	Grade 4
Trinity Ruff	Grade 4
Jeffrey Thomas	Grade 4

Sam Dewar	Grade 2
Andrew Dryden	Grade 2
Marcus Figueroa	Grade 2
Yocelyn Gonzalez	Grade 2
Max Morrissiey	Grade 2

Cecilia Carter	Grade 3
Erica Malloy	Grade 3
Dallas Patrick	Grade 3
Jourdyn Scott	Grade 3
Kourtney Shoemaker	Grade 3

SUNNYSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Amanda Allison	Kindergarten	Madalyn Adams	Grade 2
Dominic Castro	Kindergarten	Bradley Beamer	Grade 2
Sophia DeMarco	Kindergarten	Alexis Ellington	Grade 2
Samantha Muza	Kindergarten	Jason Kaiser	Grade 2
Jonah Smith	Kindergarten	Aubrey Slack	Grade 2
Ariana Ayala	Grade 1	George Class-Peters, Jr.	Grade 3
Abigail Bunn	Grade 1	Gary Foraker	Grade 3
Trey Deakyne	Grade 1	Haley Harper	Grade 3
Isaac Hancock	Grade 1	Jarrett Hartsock	Grade 3
Logan Strauss	Grade 1	Tyler Scott	Grade 3
	Jasmine Balderson	Grade 4	
	Sara Field	Grade 4	
	Victoria Galloway	Grade 4	
	Lindsay Strauss	Grade 4	
	Kylie Womer	Grade 4	

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Jadi Borrero	Grade 5
Corey Collins	Grade 5
Fuentes Fountain	Grade 5
Gabrielle Mannino	Grade 5
Will Walker	Grade 5
Shanyn Austin	Grade 6
Bruce Heath	Grade 6
Cathryn Holford	Grade 6
Arianna McClarin	Grade 6
Mallory Pressley	Grade 6

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Casey Barbour	Grade 7
Briyana Chisholm	Grade 7
Saad Shafique	Grade 7
Alex Stubbolo	Grade 7
Sean Sullivan	Grade 7
Alana Boyd	Grade 8
Maurica McCray-Witkowski	Grade 8
Austen Minner	Grade 8
Jon Richardson	Grade 8
Rukiayah Warner	Grade 8

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Alyssa Auer	Grade 9	Kye-Hyun Cho	Grade 11
Darien Fillette	Grade 9	Emily Conboy	Grade 11
Caitlin Hernandez	Grade 9	Corinne Dries	Grade 11
Paige McFadden	Grade 9	Anjeu Henry	Grade 11
Bianca Nelson	Grade 9	Kyle Wigmore	Grade 11
Molly Daley	Grade 10	Cody Garland	Grade 12
David Letterman	Grade 10	Jameria Gillis	Grade 12
Becky Lewis	Grade 10	Ashley Martin	Grade 12
Danielle Oscar	Grade 10	Donnie Messick	Grade 12
Kassandra Reed	Grade 10	Tyler Torres	Grade 12