



# Smyrna School District

## Essay Contest

2000-01

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, there is a pencil holder containing several pencils.

## I ♥ the Smyrna School District

The first 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 2001. There were two categories of winners: adults (18 and over) and students (K through Grade 12). First, second, and third place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments during "I Love the Smyrna School District" day, February 24, 2001.

The 2001 writing contest focused on the value of *Respect*. 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 appreciate to all who contributed their time and effort to enter this contest and share their thoughts.

*Debbie Wicks*  
Superintendent

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At the direction of the 2001 "I Love the Smyrna School District" committee, the Smyrna School District Essay Contest was initiated for a two-fold purpose: to emphasize the importance of writing in the district and to encourage student and adult discussion about *Respect*, a core district value. Contest rules and a writing prompt were developed and published to guide both adult and student entrants. The writing prompt, in particular, was created to mirror the type of prompt students might encounter on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) writing tests given each spring. The response to the contest was overwhelming. We received many heart-felt, inspirational essays that demonstrated not only effective writing skills but an in-depth understanding of *respect*, even among the youngest of entrants. Clearly, *respect* is a deeply held value in the community of Smyrna. Special thanks goes to our judges for the adult entrants, two of whom served as distinguished educators in the Smyrna School District: Ruth Williams and Jean Bonner, both teachers of English. Our third judge is a fine professional reporter who worked for the Smyrna-Clayton Sun Times, Valerie Lemoi. Special thanks also goes to Smyrna School District Central Office secretary Karen Kennedy who completed the layout and final publication. Finally, without the exceptional teachers of the Smyrna School District who encouraged their students to write and judged the writing at their respective grade levels, this contest and subsequent publication would not have been possible.

### ESSAY CONTEST

Is there someone you greatly respect for his/her qualities, values, and actions? Do you admire a relative, friend, co-worker, or famous person for being an exemplary role model? If so, the Smyrna School District invites you—Smyrna students and community members—to participate in an essay contest to promote a Smyrna School District core value: *Respect*. There are two categories of winners: adults (18 and over) and students (K-12).

Contestants are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic (deadline is January 31, 2001):

***"Choose a person who has your highest respect. Tell who it is and why you chose that person. Make sure you tell what qualities made you choose that person and describe those qualities in detail."***

### ADULT WINNERS

First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners will receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. Their essays will be published in the Smyrna-Clayton Sun Times. Ten runners-up will receive a certificate of accomplishment. Winners and runners-up will be recognized during the "I Love the Smyrna School District" day. (February 24)

### STUDENT WINNERS

First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners will be selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners will receive medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. First place winners at each grade level will have their work published in the Smyrna-Clayton Sun Times. All winners will be recognized during the "I Love the Smyrna School District" day. (February 24)

*Alexander C. Shalk, Ed.D.*  
Supervisor of Curriculum



The challenge of identifying a certain person who has exemplified respect became a task of interpreting my concept of respect. I know that respect is not the name of any course in school. It is the total course of life. With this in mind, and the fact that who I am today is because of my parents' influence, I want to briefly share my father's life with you and reflect on the aspects of respect.

My father, Charles R. Mace, Jr. grew up on a farm near Baltimore. He was a track star in high school and college, where he studied forestry. He married a Dover girl, and they had four children. His initial livelihood was making furniture, and he also liked to make interlocking jigsaw puzzles. Moving to a small farm near Bel Air, Maryland, he acquired livestock and began working at Aberdeen Proving Ground in the rocket-testing program during World War II. He later purchased a tire recapping business to provide employment for my brother and his wife's German parents. He also operated an ice cream store and constructed a go-cart track on the farm. His other interests included silviculture, photography, and donkeys.

My father cared for the land and wildlife by planting trees, filling in eroded gullies, and preserving hedgerows. We saved old newspapers and cardboard to take to the salvage yard in Baltimore. He always said the small amount of money received helped pay for the trip to town. He did not smoke or drink and was a witness for his Quaker background. He would share his puzzles with shut-in people. He was always fixing something for someone and sharing his talents and skills were his most enthusiastic moments.

My father was busy, but he always found time to make our first bats, wooden wheels, and swings. He took us swimming three or four evenings each week after coming home from work. We would also go camping in the trailer he made. Walks down our lane to get the mail or evening newspaper were either nature hikes or foot races. The pond he built was always a source of frogs, birds, and insects, a haven of fun for my siblings and me, and a source of water when the well went dry. For school and 4-H projects, my father used his most creative talents helping us make wooden notebook covers, a device to demonstrate Pascal's Law out of old auto parts, and a replica of a bedroom at the county fair.

Today he would likely be labeled a male chauvinist, but he was also chivalrous. My father stressed good table manners and posture, encouraged reading, and believed in the value of education. For three of us, he provided a college education, and set my brother up in business.

Respect for self, for his immediate and extended family, and for the environment may not be what my father consciously sought, but in my judgment, he exemplifies the person who provided the A, B, C's of respect in my life.

*Samuel Mace*

First Place, Adult

The word respect is defined as high or special regard. My respect goes to my son, Nick Fardoulis, and the teachers, administrators, friends and coaches that I have met because of their involvement with my son.

Nick is a fourth grade student at Smyrna Elementary School. He is a very bright, energetic boy. In second grade, Nick was diagnosed with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and fine motor control problems. They are types of learning disabilities. ADHD affects the way you learn and behave. Sometimes it is not that a person with ADHD is not focused, but that they are focused on all the stimuli around them, all at once. A person with ADHD has a hard time filtering out sounds or sights that they should overlook, from the things they need to hear and learn. Fine motor controls affect the way you use the muscles in your fingers to write, use scissors, and pick up small items.

Since his diagnosis, Nick has made steady improvements in his grades and his behavior. He does get frustrated and tired of doing extra work to gain the same results as his peers. For all this hard work, I respect my son. He complains, as most kids do when faced with extra schoolwork, but he seems to enjoy his successes. Every positive grade or outcome increases his self-esteem and my respect for him.

Nick is also a very good athlete. He loves to play baseball and football. When I watch him playing, I am proud. I also catch myself wondering if the bobbled snap from the center was from his fingers not working as they should or lack of concentration because of the noise of the crowd. I respect that he gets out there and plays, never feeling sad with losses or blaming his difficulties.

I read a story recently about birds that were having a contest to see who could fly the highest. The majority of the birds did not want to try because they felt the eagle would surely win. As the eagle flew to its highest point, a small sparrow that had hidden under its feathers flew up and surpassed the eagle, winning the contest. We have all hitched a ride on someone's back to gain a higher goal than we could reach on our own. In that way, I feel that Nick has hitched a ride on the backs of teachers, administrators, friends, and coaches. All these people deserve and have my respect.

The media fills our heads with lots of negative images with regards to ADD/ADHD. I was worried that perhaps telling about my son's difficulties may come back to haunt him in the future. I hope this will not be the case. I know there are many people with similar problems. Every individual has some quality that should be held in high regard. I have just one thought: LEARN TO RESPECT ALL PEOPLE AS INDIVIDUALS.

*Jackie Fardoulis*

Second Place, Adult



The person in my life that I respect the most is my pastor. His name is Ken Brown. He is the pastor at Crossroads Alliance Church and the chaplain at Westminster Village. I have never met anyone else who I respect more.

I met Pastor Brown only two months ago. He helps anyone and everyone. He does not judge people for their actions, but simply asks what he can do to help. Since I have known Pastor Brown for these past two months, he has helped several people. He has done some drywall for people in need. He has found a stove for someone and went out of his way to clean it himself and get it to that person the same day. He made sure a lady with cancer had a wonderful Christmas for herself and her children. Even though he is a very busy man, he always has time for people in need. He is setting an awesome example for all the people he touches. He always portrays a positive attitude. He is always upbeat and that kind of attitude is sure to rub off on you. He has taught me a tremendous amount of things in the short time I have known him. I look forward to Sundays. When I go to church, I know he will be there with a smile on his face and he will be excited to see my family and me. He has taught me patience and understanding. He has also helped me achieve peace and joy in my life. He is truly what represents respect. He has also taught me about priorities. This was something I was sure I needed no help with, but I know feel at peace with my priorities.

When you look up the definition of respect in the dictionary, it says “high or special regard.” I can honestly say I hold Pastor Ken Brown in the highest regard. In today’s society it is hard for kids to find positive role models. So imagine how hard it is for adults to find them also. Pastor Brown has completely changed my life for the better in the last two months. I don’t even think he realizes what a good role model he is. We need more people like him in the world. He is doing an awesome job at Westminster Village and at Crossroads Alliance Church. He is a very special person to my family and myself. I look forward to my continued friendship with the pastor. I have learned so much in the last two months and I can’t wait for what is to come.

In closing, I would just like to say that I am so grateful that I have had the chance to become friends with the pastor and his wife, Nancy. They are both gifts from God. He has so much knowledge to share with the people around him. As you can see, he is a man that deserves the utmost respect. I am blessed to have him in my life, and I hope all of you have someone like him in your life.

*Lora Cook*  
Third Place, Adult



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

My special person is my mom. We play with a ball. When I am sick, she always covers me up in a nice warm blanket. Me and my mom walk the dog. We think it is very fun. Me and my mom color, and we play with my animals. We play in the swimming pool with a blue ball and on the beach. It's all fun.

*Chelsea Fry*  
First Place, Grade 1

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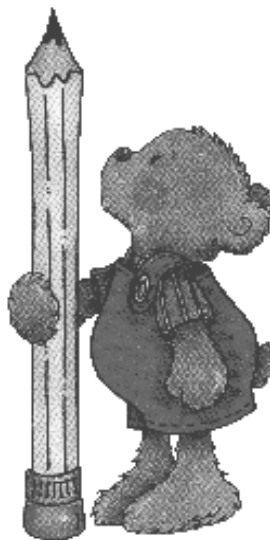
My mom is special to me. She's special because she gets me a game. She's special because she takes me grocery shopping. She's special because she lets me play. She's special because she lets me have snacks. I think my mom is nice.

*Brandi Gordon*  
Second Place, Grade 1

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My mommy is a special person to me. I love her. My mommy is fun. My mommy makes good food. My mommy's birthday is in December. It is fun to have a mommy. I have a special mommy. We have a good time. I respect my mommy because I love her and she loves me.

*Lizett Ayala*  
Third Place, Grade 1



My grandfather is nice. When I need help with my homework, he helps me. When I want to help him when he is getting the program ready for church, he lets me help. When my mom is off of work and I do not have school, he lets me go shopping with him. When I go over his house and I don't have anything to play with, he plays with me. When I am sick really bad, he lets me go over his house. He takes care of me by giving me Sprite and chicken noodle soup. He gives me a basin to throw up in and lets me sleep in the extra bedroom with a blanket. He is funny when someone bends back his finger. He pretends to scream like a girl. That is why I love my grandfather.

*Tanisha Dixon*

First Place, Grade 2

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I respect my dad because he is kind. My dad plays with me when I am sad. The game he plays with me is tic-tac-toe and I never win. He is helpful. But when I need help, he helps me. When I do something bad he does not get mad at me. My dad is nice to other people like my mom-mom and pop-pop and to other people too. My dad takes me for walks and takes me to the movies sometimes. When it is my birthday he takes me shopping or sometimes to the roller rink. I love my dad. I'm glad he is my dad. At Christmas my dad gives me so much stuff I can't even name them. My dad is so funny when he tells jokes that are very funny. I like the way my dad tells jokes, and that is why I respect my dad and I love him.

*Brandi Carrow*

Second Place, Grade 2

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The person that I respect most is God. The first reason is because he is happy all the time. He is happy all the time because in heaven you cannot get mad. Also, he is with Jesus and all the angels. The next reason is because He answers my prayers. Because one time I prayed that my mom and dad would make it home safely, and they did. That made me happy. That is very amazing. The whole world is so good because He made it. After that He loves everyone in the world, even the bad people. Last He cares for every person in the world. The reason He cares for us is because He made everyone in the world.

*Corinne McKee*

Third Place, Grade 2

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The person who has the highest respect from me is my mom. She takes me places, and we do many things together. She takes me to the big mall and other great places. She helps me with my homework. Sometimes she makes me clean dirty dishes and clean my big room, but she is great. These are some reasons why I respect my mom.

My mom encourages me to do a lot of fun and educational things. In our house, my brother and I love to talk to her. When I have the chance to talk to her, she makes me laugh and takes care of me. I look forward to my mom's encouragement.

My mom is a talented artist. She loves to draw pictures and use bright colors. She also loves to paint. I love to paint, too. That is why I think she is a talented artist.

These are all of the reasons I have respect for my mom. She encourages me a lot. Also, she makes me laugh. She takes me places, too. These are all of the explanations why I respect my mom.

*Jacob Roberts*  
First Place, Grade 3

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Salutations reader! Nice to meet you. I am going to tell you about someone I admire very much. I bet you can't guess who it is before I go on.

First, I chose this individual because she is extremely nice. She lets me do most of the things I want to do like play outside, play with my friends, and go to my Nanna and Pappy's house.

Next, I believe that I should describe her more. She looks like me and has the same hair color as me. She wears long sleeves and pants in the winter, and short sleeves and shorts in the summer. Now can you guess who this is? It's my MOM! My mom is special to me because she lends me a hand with my homework most every night and she lets me eat ice cream when my dad says no, too. Finally, I respect and admire my mom because I believe in her and I love her intensity.

P.S. I will help her at all times, too!!

*Courtney Churchill*  
Second Place, Grade 3

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The person I highly respect is my mom, Shomona Lofland. There are many things that I respect about her which are caring, honest, nice, trustworthy, and brave.

My first paragraph is going to be about my mom caring for me. The reason why I picked caring is because when I am sad she sits down and helps me solve my problems. For instance, not too long ago when I fell and scratched my knee and started crying. She talked with me and I felt a little better. She put a band-aid on my knee and it felt a lot better too. Then I stopped crying and went back outside. That is why my mom is caring.

My second paragraph is going to be about my mom being honest. The reason why I picked honest is because when my mom borrows something sometimes she forgets to ask me. For instance, one day not too long ago I was looking for my story that I wrote in second grade. I looked all over the house but I could not find it. Finally, I asked my mom if she had it. And she said that she was glad that I said that because she wanted to tell me that she borrowed it but she forgot to ask. I told her it was ok, and I gave her a hug and said thank you for being honest. She said I was welcome. That is why my mom is honest.

My next paragraph is going to be about my mom being nice to me. The reason why I picked nice is because sometimes even when she can't go with me she lets me go by myself. For example, one day we were supposed to go to the skating rink because it was Saturday and on Saturdays we always go to the skating rink with my aunt and my four cousins. At first my mom said we were not going to make it, but later she said I could go and stay and she could leave. Later my mom took me there and I was very excited to start skating. When I went inside my aunt and cousins were already skating. Then I rushed to get my skates on. Next I said "Hi" and started skating. I was the best skater in the rink! That is why my mom is nice.

My next paragraph is going to be about my mom being trustworthy. The reason why I picked trustworthy is because when I leave to go to school and she cleans my room she does not look through my things. For example, when I was not home and she cleaned my room she found my diary. I think she wanted to look in it but she didn't. I don't think she did because I asked her not to and she said okay. When I came home I saw my room all straightened up, and I asked my mom if she had cleaned my room. "Yes," she said. "I meant to tell you I found your diary." "Uh oh!" I said. "But!" she said, her voice getting louder, "But I", I tried to say something but I had a big lump in my throat. "But!" my mom said again still in the same tone, "I did not look in it," she said, getting back to her regular voice. "You didn't?" I asked. "No," she said. "I kept my promise." "Yes! Thank you!" I said. "You are welcome," she said, "after all, a promise is a promise," she said and smiled.

My last paragraph is going to be about my mom being brave. The reason why I picked brave is because my mom can travel all the way to North Carolina by herself. For example, a long time ago, the church was supposed to go to North Carolina because we have a church down there. When we have trips like that, we have them on Saturdays. The problem is that we have church on Fridays and we leave the next day. The way to solve that though is they let us out early so we can pack our suitcases. Anyway, my mom and I were leaving church on Friday. Then my mom dropped me off and went to pack up and leave. My mom stayed up all night packing. Next my mom set the alarm clock and went to sleep. The next morning she heard the alarm clock but did

not get up. She felt like she had just gone to sleep. After five minutes she got up, but it was way past the time she should have gotten up. "Oh no! I didn't set the clock right!" She bathed, put her clothes on, grabbed the bags and left. She kept going for six hours! When she got there everybody was in church. When we come any day of the week, we always have church at the same time. Then she went in and put her luggage down and sat down. Finally, it was time to go to someone's house to spend the night. She had a good sleep. The next morning she got up, ate, and got dressed. Later she went to church and stayed for three hours. Finally, it was time to go back home. This time she went with everybody else. My mom can't drive behind people in a straight line so she left them and came to get me. Finally we went home, changed into our nightgowns and went to sleep. That is why my mom is brave. My mom is the person I highly respect.

*Shyneice Porter*  
Third Place, Grade 3



“Oh! Hi. My name is Cole Brennan. You would like to be my friend, you ask. Well, I guess that would be okay.

Can you listen for a sec though?

First, you must respect my friends before you become one of mine.

You better respect Ricky Hudson, though.

Why, you ask, because he is my best friend.

Here, sit down and let me tell you about him. It started this year, when my ex-best friend and I were having arguments and stopped being best friends. Then Ricky started playing with me and it got to friends, good friends, and then best friends.

I started showing a lot of respect toward him. Then I got respect back from him. I came over and spent the night at his house once or twice. Again, I showed more respect when I came over and got back. I think respect plays a lot in friendship.

There are also a lot of other things Ricky is nice about. If you are hurt, he will help. The word “hurt” doesn’t exactly mean a cut, either. He helps me out because my mom and dad got divorced. Ricky’s the best friend I’ve ever had. When Ricky thinks of others, he uses two words. One is trust; he shows a lot of trust. The other is love. He always shows love, no matter what.

Well, that’s my best friend, Richard Andrew Hudson.

Well, I’ll talk to you later, okay?

Bye!”

*Cole Brennan*  
First Place, Grade 4

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Today I’m going to tell you why I honor Robert Probst. For a child who had a hard time growing up, he’s done a lot for me. Robert has inspired me to play sports.

He has taught me the fundamentals of football. Also, he showed me how to play. It was hard to learn to throw and catch the football. Basically, Robert did the best to teach me how to play.

Mr. Probst also helped me to learn to play baseball. Now baseball was harder because I had to learn to throw and catch the ball. With his help and patience, he taught me to bat. It wasn’t easy.



Also, he helped me to know a little more about basketball. Robert educated me to learn to dribble and shoot the ball. Also, he instructed me to block the opponents.

He helped me to learn a little about wrestling. He taught me to not get beat and to try to block the opponent the best you can. Then you might be able to do a move and pin the opponent.

I owe all my respect to Robert Probst for teaching me all of what he did. For a child with a hard time growing up, he did a lot for me.

*Tyler Torres*

Second Place, Grade 4

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My brother Bryan is the person who gets my highest respect. He is handicapped, he can't walk, talk or do anything by himself but that doesn't change a thing. There are three reasons why he earns my highest respect.

First, no matter what operation he goes into, he always comes out with a cheerful face. For example, one time he got his back operated on. He went into the hospital one day. The next day he came back out with a cheery face and a sticker that read "Very Brave" on it.

Second, I think that he was put on this earth to show people not to be worried about what they have or don't have, to just be glad about what you have, or maybe, to show people it's okay to be afraid when you run into something scary, just as long as you come out with the great feeling that it's all over with.

Third, if it's true that people do live again after they die, I think he should be a famous athlete and win a gold medal or something he was not able to do in his lifetime. But I would love the joy of being his little brother again!

This is why I do give my brother Bryan my highest respect of all. He is the best brother that a kid could ever have and I mean it!!

*Kyle Dolan*

Third Place, Grade 4



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

I respect my brother, Kyle, because he helps me do my homework. He helps me play video games. He helps me set the table. He helps me pack in the morning.

*Grant Daniels*  
First Place, Pre-First

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The person I respect the most is my cousin, Tori. One reason I respect my cousin is because of how she makes me feel. She gave me a gift. Another reason I respect my cousin is because she helps me. She helps me with my homework. The last reason I respect my cousin is because she is nice to me. She saved my life. She helped me because she pulled me away from the pool so I would not fall in. I love Tori.

*Taylor Duke*  
First Place, Grade 1

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I respect my mom-mom. When my mom-mom isn't at work, she helps me with my homework. If I need help with a word, she helps me. When I get scared at night, my mom-mom comes and gets me. I love my mom-mom.

*Lacey Leonard*  
Second Place, Grade 1

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I respect my sister because she is nice when we play, and she helps me a lot. She never pouts. I say no bad words to her. I do nice things to her. She always apologizes to me so I feel better. She respects me a lot.

*Jaynie Deputy*  
Third Place, Grade 1

I respect my mother because she loves me with all of her heart, but especially because she's my mother. I respect my mother because she gives me kisses and hugs. When I was three years old I was afraid of the dark, but my mommy gave me a nightlight, and I wasn't afraid anymore. I respect my mom because she gives me toys. I respect my mom because she helps me with my homework. I really respect my mother.

*Michael Whitby*  
First Place, Pre-Second

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The person I respect the most is my grandmother, Linda Reed. She has great qualities.

My grandmother is responsible for her grandchildren. She gives us healthy foods. She likes to buy us presents and loves us very much. She looks out for her children. She likes to take us on trips and takes us on rides. She holds us when we are riding something high. She always looks after us and takes care of us.

Grandmom is smart and intelligent. She thinks with her mind. She stands up for herself. She checks over my homework to make sure I get it right.

When I ask her something, Grandmom always says it in a positive way. Sometimes she tells stories to make me feel better. She loves to tell funny stories.

She is respectful. She thinks of us. She thinks of others. She treats others the way she would like to be treated. She teaches people not to fight.

Grandmom is friendly, and she is not mean to other people and does not hit. She has good table manners. She helps people carry their bags.

She loves us very much, and she takes good care of me. When she goes somewhere, she kisses me goodbye.

How you can see why I picked my Grandmom, Linda Reed. She is the person that I love the most. I am lucky to have a great grandmother.

*Amber Levere*  
First Place, Grade 2

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I'll tell you two people that I respect. I respect my parents. I respect my mom because she is kind to people. She watches her sister's children while her sister is at work. She also helps my Aunt Shordy do brownies. She works hard on cleaning up and making dinner. I respect my dad because if somebody breaks things he will yell at both of us. He also fixes our toys. He is very funny and he makes me feel good when I feel sad. He helps my brother go hunting. Do you wish you had parents like mine?

*Casse Rhodes*

Second Place, Grade 2

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The person I respect the most is my sister. My sister's name is Courtney. She likes her name and I like her name too. Courtney likes her name because it is an odd number of letters. Courtney has a good name.

Courtney cares about me a lot. She pours me drinks every day. When I get hurt, Courtney brings me a band-aid.

My sister Courtney is trustful. When I was playing Legos she said, "Let me help you." I thought she would break it, but she didn't.

Courtney is a good sport. When she loses she does not scream or cry she just says good job. She does not care if she loses.

She's a playful person. One night she was thinking of a game. Courtney did not know what to play. I told her, "How about animals on the soft rug?" Courtney said that is was a good idea because it is fun.

Courtney helps me learn. She teaches me ABC order and math. One ABC order Courtney thing that she taught me was she would write down four words and then I would put them in order. On math she would write four math facts, and I would add them up so I can get an A+ on my test.

*Mathieu Tibbett*

Third Place, Grade 2

Wow! I really respect my mom. I respect her because she is a very nice person, and she is very smart. She goes to college, and she is very good at math and reading. She always helps me with my homework, and she thinks I am terrific. I admire my mother because she shows me that nothing is impossible if you keep trying.

My mom is funny. She likes to play jokes to make me laugh. She tells me that I have a beautiful smile. She takes me to a lot of different places like Disney World, Virginia, West Virginia, to the movies, skating, and also to the mall.

My mom is so very special to me. When I was a baby, my daddy died, and she took good care of me all by herself. When I got older, she found me the best dad in the world. She has given me a whole family, full of love.

My mom is the best cook in the world. She always makes food I like, and sometimes she lets me help her cook. She says she wants me to cook good for my family when I grow up.

In conclusion, my mom is not just a mother, but a friend. I admire her because she is beautiful inside and out. I'm glad she belongs to me.

*Samantha Cox-Cahall*

First Place, Grade 3

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The person I respect the most is my dad. He goes to work everyday even though he has Muscular Dystrophy (M.D.). He takes good care of me. He coaches my soccer team.

My dad has M.D., or Muscular Dystrophy. He is not able to walk or stand. It is difficult to get out of his chair. Even though he has all these problems, my dad is very nice. He goes to work everyday. I think he is very brave.

Dad takes good care of me. He wakes me up for school and tries to make me eat breakfast. When I'm sick, dad listens to me and gets me stuff I need to help me feel better. When there is an emergency, he will call the hospital right away. He will help me no matter what happens.

My dad coaches soccer. He helps all the kids learn. He even plays soccer against me. He wants to help the kids if they get hurt playing soccer. He is always patient when someone has a problem. He is kind to everyone even if they are being bad.

My dad is very special. I respect him a lot. He has Muscular Dystrophy and still goes to work. He takes very good care of me. He even coaches my soccer team. My dad is my hero.

*Patrick Taylor*

Second Place, Third Grade

I respect all my family and friends, but most of all I respect my mother. Respect means being friendly, nice, and helpful. My mother is the best mother ever. I trust her in many ways. She loves and protects me. My mother also cares for me when I need her. She makes sure I'm very safe and secure.

I trust her in many ways because she takes me places even though she has other things to do. She tries her best to cheer me up when I am sad and lonely. She prepares dinner every night and still has time to spend with me. She helps teach me and lets me go to school. She also helps me with my homework when I get stuck on a problem. She lets me have a birthday party and she gives me lots of presents. That is why I trust her.

My mom loves and protects me, too. She makes sure I have enough food to eat and buys houseware with her own money for me. She also buys me clothes to wear. When I'm sick, she makes get well cards and is there when I need her to listen to me. She makes sure I have a house for shelter. That is why she loves and protects me.

She cares for me in many ways. My mom goes to work every day and doesn't complain. She also lets us have pets to love and care for. My mother takes me to church and special places and events. She also pays her bills. That is how she cares for me.

My mother makes sure I'm safe and secure. She takes me to the doctor and dentist when I need a check-up. That's how she makes sure I'm healthy. She also makes sure I know right from wrong. That's why she makes sure I'm safe and secure.

My mother makes me so happy. We both love each other so much. I want to be just like her when I grow up. These are just some of the reasons she is the best, loving, caring mother ever!

*Julie Aebersold*  
Third Place, Third Grade



When I was deciding whom to write about, I looked back on my school years to see if any of my teachers influenced me. The person I most respect is my third grade teacher, Mrs. Chadwick. Mrs. Chadwick has very good qualities. She is a great teacher. She is also a very good listener, and at times, she can be the funniest person in the world especially when she tells us stories about her cats. I feel I can go to her about any problem, and she would give me good advice. When you are a teacher, you should be a caring role model for your students. Mrs. Chadwick is a good example. Mrs. Chadwick is the reason I want to become a teacher. I hope in the future, when I am a teacher, my students will have the same respect as I do for Mrs. Chadwick.

*Erica Hansen*

First Place, Grade 4

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I respect my mom because she respects me. When I need help with something like homework she helps me. For example when I can't spell a word she helps me spell it or when I'm stuck on a problem she helps me.

She gives me money when I need it. For example, we were in the store and I saw a Tweety that was five dollars. I had four dollars and she gave me one dollar. Then I bought the Tweety. Here is another example. When I wanted to go to the arcade, I didn't have any money and she gave me five dollars.

I respect my mom because she raised me and used to feed and change me when I was a baby. Now she cooks me dinner and makes me snacks. Now, I am a big healthy girl because she took so great care of me.

When she tries to get money for Christmas I tell her that I don't want any Christmas gifts. All I want to do is celebrate Jesus' birthday.

When I'm bored she plays the Playstation with me. For example, we play Tetris and Wheel of Fortune. Another thing we do is watch Lifetime movies, cartoons, or game shows. That is why I respect my mom because she raised me, gives me money, helps me, tries to get money for Christmas, and plays with me when I'm bored. If you had my mom would you respect her? I sure would.

*Amanda Boyles*

Second Place, Grade 4

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The person I really respect is my friend, Amy Williams.

One reason I really respect her is because she listens. If I have something to say, she'll listen very carefully to me.

I also respect her because of how kind and helpful she is. If I need to borrow a piece of paper or pencil she'll be kind enough and will let me. One time when I slept over at her house and I slipped on my sleeping bag, she didn't make fun of me and helped me up.

Another reason I respect her is because she honors my opinions and is honest and trustful. Amy doesn't lie at all.

The last reason why I respect her is because she obeys rules. If your teacher, Mr. Pinder, says freeze she'll stop what she is doing and look up and listen to him. She also tries her best in school.

I think Amy is a great friend and I respect her for that.

*Christy Griffith*  
Third Place, Grade 4





Grades 5 and 6

One person that I admire and respect in this world is my grandfather, William Robert “Bill” Carter, Sr. Many people know him, but I know him the best!

Pop-Pop Carter is trustworthy and loyal, but most of all he is dependable. Usually he has the greatest advice that never fails or just listens when I need to talk. Pop-Pop keeps all his promises and is there for me all the time. He’ll come to watch me at school or games and stays, or else Pop-Pop let’s me know he cannot stay and gives me a reason why. Pop-Pop is all this and much more.

Loving describes Pop-Pop, too. He shows his love in many ways all year. We spend a lot of time together doing things such as gardening, building, playing, and almost everything else we can do! Pop-Pop is enjoyable and funny by making up corny jokes and always being cheerful. Although loving and enjoyable are important things about my grandfather, there is still more.

Of course we all know that if he is loving and enjoyable, he has to be caring and helpful. Pop-Pop can always tell how I feel and is concerned about my troubles. Pop-Pop has many experiences that help solve my problems because he has been a son, father, and grandfather. Sometimes he doesn’t say anything at all but just lets me hang out with him and I feel better.

There are many reasons my grandfather is one of my role models. Pop-Pop is a leader and Sunday School teacher in our church. He is a retired police officer who protected our community for many years. Pop-Pop graduated from the Smyrna School District, was in the United States Navy, and has always been an awesome athlete!

As you can see, my Pop-Pop Carter is someone I respect. He is always near and does anything he can to help. Pop-Pop is a super mentor for me and the best part is he lives right next door! My sister and I are lucky to have so many wonderful grandparents. Do you have someone special in your life?

*William Robert “Will” Carter, III*

First Place, Grade 5



My name is Britney Whitby. The person I respect most would be my mother. She sacrifices many things for herself so that she can provide for her children. My mother had me at the age of seventeen, my sister at the age of eighteen, and my brother at the age of twenty. My mother and father were married at a young age and after having the three of us, they divorced when I was three. My little brother was just about three weeks old and was born with a heart disease known as Aortic stenosis. My mother took it upon herself to raise the three of us by herself without the help of anyone. She would work long hours and her brother, my Uncle Carl, would have to come over after school and baby-sit us until my mom returned home from work. It wasn't easy for her, yet she never let it get her down. Sometimes though, she did say that when it was really tough, she would cry herself to sleep. My mom has raised us basically by herself with good morals, respect, and the desire to do well in anything and everything we do. My sister, brother, and I all do very well in school and achieve the honor roll almost every semester and that makes my mother very happy.

Since then, my mother has remarried and is very successful. She loves my stepfather very much and they have a daughter, my sister "Savannah." She is an inspiration to many others and me. My mother is self-employed as a Foster Care Provider for mentally challenged adults. My stepfather owns "Delaware Custom Homes" and together they build houses and rent them out to people who are having a rough time and are in the process of rebuilding their lives. My mom says she knows all too well what those people are going through. Now, since they have the resources to help people less fortunate, they do. They provide nice homes for people to live in that are assisted through the government. This makes all of us happy and the other families as well.

I also would like you to know that besides the four children my mother has to take care of, she also takes care of two mentally challenged adults and two stepchildren, and get this, she is only 28. My mom gets us all up and off to school and day center by 8:00 am. Also, did I mention we are pro-school choice, which means they have to take us and pick us up? This doesn't count the days my sister and I have Spanish. My mother is the person I respect the most because she has accomplished so much and still works hard. She says that when you have children, it is your responsibility to take care of them. She is living proof that she does what she says and says what she means. I love my mom and I know she loves me. She tells us everyday.

*Britney M. Whitby*  
Second Place, Grade 5

My brother Brent is a volunteer firefighter for Station 45 in Clayton, Delaware. I think he is an excellent role model and someone who I respect.

Brent joined the fire company when he was 16 in February 1999. To join and stay at the fire company, you have to get good grades. It takes a lot of training to be a good firefighter. He went to fire school for a long period of time.

When Brent was going to high school, he would leave school to answer fire calls. He would be responsible for making up his schoolwork. He was featured in the school paper for one of the Community Core Values, "Perseverance." He was in a photograph along with the other students who were Clayton firefighters.

He is 18 years old now. He still is dedicated to the fire company. When the fire alarm sounds, he goes, day or night, even when he is asleep. Sometimes he is helping others fight fires instead of going fishing or being with his friends.

My brother always teaches me about fire safety, just in case I need it for when I'm older, or so I can help my family, neighbors, or even a baby needing it.

I respect my brother because he always puts himself last when he is fighting fires or helping others when needed. When the fire siren goes off, they never know what they are going to encounter. It may be a flaming house, a car accident, or sometimes it may just be a false alarm, but they are always prepared.

Sometimes Brent can be a pain in the neck, but he is always there for me. I love him and respect him.

*Meghan Boyer*  
Third Place, Grade 5



Hi, my name is Becky Virdin. I'm eleven years old and in the sixth grade at North Elementary School. I am writing about the person who has my highest respect, Wendy McNatt.

I have known Wendy for several years. I first met her at a 4-H meeting. She was an older member who always had something nice to say and always made me feel comfortable. Then she became a Junior Leader that helped out at project meetings. Even at hard sewing project meetings, she always talked to me in a way that made me feel good about myself. When I went away to Younger Member Weekend for the first time, Wendy took the time to check and see how I was doing. Once she was my counselor for the weekend. I have watched Wendy become the treasurer, vice-president, and now the president of our New Beginnings 4-H Club. She is organized, fair, and joyful. I have seen Wendy win local and state awards. Recently, she went to National 4-H Congress to represent Delaware.

I have heard her talking about wanting to go to veterinarian school for many years. I have watched her set her goals. Now that she is a senior at Smyrna High School, she is working hard to get good grades and win scholarships. Through all her efforts, she is following her dreams and going to college.

I am going to miss Wendy very much when she leaves for college. You never know, she might become a famous vet taking good care of your pets some day. Even if she isn't, she will still be a great role model to me. I hope to follow in her footsteps some day.

*Becky Virdin*  
First Place, Grade 6

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When asked about writing this essay about who has my highest respect it really was hard. I thought of people like my Mom and Dad, my favorite artist, my favorite teacher or my favorite author. The one I finally chose was my favorite principal, Mr. Dickerson.

Mr. Dickerson has my highest respect for so many reasons; he was a great principal, a great friend, a good listener, and a nice person to be with. Those are just a few little reasons why Mr. Dickerson holds my highest respect.

One reason Mr. Dickerson has my highest respect is how he ran Clayton Elementary. Mr. Dickerson visited classrooms, knew every child's name, was very friendly, and had a place in his heart for every person.

My second reason for my greatest respect to go to him is how he acted. He acted with deep respect for everyone and understood kids and their problems. He was careful not to overlook anything or anyone. Mr. Dickerson even got in on big school activities, read books to classes, and supported every idea.

My third and final reason is how he took time to listen and watch people. I had a play that I was presenting to my class in third grade and I asked him to come. He said he'd try his hardest to make it but there could be a possibility he couldn't be there. I told him that if he could make it, it would mean the world to me. The show was about to begin and he made it! He laughed and clapped. Mr. Dickerson made me so happy I hugged him. Those are all the reasons he has my highest respect.

All of those reasons are why Mr. Dickerson has my truest and highest respect. He deserves the highest respect from everyone that knew him and I'm sure everyone would agree. Mr. Dickerson is the most respectable person I knew and he always will be.

*Sheila Snyder*  
Second Place, Grade 6

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Someone who I greatly respect in Smyrna is my band teacher, Mr. Walls. I do not only respect him because of how he believes that I can be successful in other school activities. I am sure that he is the perfect person for me to tell you about in this essay.

Mr. Walls has been my band teacher for two years and has helped me become a better musician. Ever since I stated playing my trombone, he has been instructing and inspiring me to become the best musician I can. So far, I have only been playing my trombone for the two years that I have known Mr. Walls, which only adds up to four concerts, but I'll keep playing all the way through college.

Mr. Walls has inspired me in other activities, too. Last year I wanted to try out for drama, but I didn't. I thought I might embarrass myself. In the beginning of the second half of the school year, Mr. Walls asked if I wanted to try out for drama. I said I was considering it. He told me that Mrs. Anspach, the drama director, had very few boys trying out, and that she would need quite a few more. He gave me pointers on how to make my voice louder and how to put emotion into my words. When he did this, I knew that he believed I could make it. I did try out, and to my surprise, I got a part in the next performance.

Another time Mr. Walls inspired me to join an activity was in this year's chorus program. I honestly didn't think that I had a good enough voice to join the chorus, but Mr. Walls thought differently. He told me that the chorus program wasn't all about your voice, but also your ability to match pitches and melodies. He said that because I could do those things with my trombone, I could definitely do them with my voice. One again, I tried out, because not only my parents believed in me, but also because Mr. Walls believed in me.

As you can see, Mr. Walls is a person that I can talk to, and I know that he will support me when I want to do something. I know that many other kids would respect their parents the most and I admit, I do too. It's just that I think of Mr. Walls as the one who not only helps and inspires me in one subject or activity, but he is the one who will help and inspire me in all of them. These characteristics make Mr. Walls the person that I respect the most.

*Kurt Reed*

Third Place, Grade 6







Grades 7 and 8

Everybody has a hero. Some are famous, some are rich, strong, or pretty. Although a hero can be these things and more, they don't have to be! My hero is Nelson V. Rinker, who is indeed a respectable role model. I truly believe he is exactly that and more! Responsibility, being appreciated, and having a hard-working attitude make him the amazing guy that he is. I'm writing about Mr. Rinker, for he is not only my Poppop, but also an important man!

We'll start with his outstanding quality of responsibility. Being the responsible father he was, and still is, he one time had to run three jobs to support his family. He took care of a son and a daughter when they were just kids, and he still makes sure they're okay to this day. My Poppop doesn't just take part in a four-member family, he takes part in a lot of people's lives. He is in charge of Smyrna's drinking water, not that his fellow co-workers don't help, but he is one of the head people when it comes to Smyrna's supply of clean drinking water. Mr. Rinker also takes care of two dogs. He found the youngest pup under a pile of leaves one cold November morning, and the dog was hurt. He took it in to feed it, and later adopted it from the SPCA. Often he'll take the dogs with him to work and he even throws them birthday parties! He is really attached to his pups, nonetheless his family and friends!

My Poppop is appreciated by many different types of people. In the 1970s, he received a letter from President Richard Nixon. The letter dealt with his "contribution of honorable service to the country" as it stated. I personally appreciate the help he's given not only to me, but also the rest of my family. He's always there whenever we need him and for whatever reason. We thank him for the help he's given my family the past year because things have changed greatly, and he has been there for the whole ride, through thick and thin. He comes over when my Mom has to go out and he stays with us to keep us company sometimes, too.

Having a hard working attitude is the third quality that best describes my Poppop. He worked hard in the Air Force. Twenty years was the full amount of time he served. He fought in at least two wars for his country. He is definitely not a quitter either. I've never known him to give up on anything. If there were such a slogan, "Just say NO to quitting!" then he'd be the perfect example. Mr. Rinker helps keep both his family and our family safe. He's often calling and driving by our house just to make sure we're all right.

I chose to write about my Poppop, Nelson V. Rinker. He's the most respectable person I know. He is this person because he's responsible, appreciated, and hard working. To you, he may just seem like an ordinary person. To me, he is Nelson V. Rinker, the most respectable person I know!

*Joy Doyle*  
First Place, Grade 7

Who is the most loving, unselfish, hardworking and given the most respect to? My great-grandfather is that person. He was born on March 14, 1905. He was one of nine children. He was the fourth oldest child. He was born in the Smyrna area. He was only able to go to school up to his seventh grade year. He went to school in a two-room schoolhouse in Warwick, Maryland. His father did not think education was important. He thought farming was most important. Later, he became a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

He quit school to help his family on the farm. He farmed most of his life until he retired in 1954. He then went to work for the government soil conservation from 1955 to 1968. He also drove a school bus, which he liked to do. Then he worked for Grace Fertilizer Company. He finally retired and stayed home. He loved to work in his garden. He grew many things like corn, lima beans, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, beets, peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, carrots, scallions, and pumpkins. He also helped mow the grass for his sons. When it would snow, he would plow everyone's driveways. He was also a baby sitter for his grandchildren. He loved that job the best.

My great-poppop was a very loving person you ever wanted to meet. I would always go over to his house and we would sit on his outdoor swing and talk. He taught me a lot about gardening. He showed me how much water to give the plants. He taught me what kind of bugs to take off the plants. He taught me how to drive a tractor. He showed me how to change the mower blades and belts. We would play a game called Karums. This game was fun. Sundays he always went to church. I would go with him sometimes.

He sold his farm when he retired. He gave each of his children two acres of land and kept two acres for himself. So, they could start their own families. My great-poppop would do things for my mommom and for my aunts. He would pick up his grandchildren from school, run them to baseball practice or even take them to the doctor. When his garden was ready for picking, he would give some of the food to all of his kids. He would even offer tomatoes to his friends. He also did a lot for his church. He was a trustee on the Townsend Cemetery Board. He would also ring the church bell before and after church every Sunday.

I am honored to be his great-grandson. He was a very big part of my life. He taught me how to be a good person. He taught me many things that I will never forget. When my great-poppop passed away on November 4, 2000, I was heartbroken. I will always share my memories of him. I hope someday I will be just like him.

*Matt Reed*

Second Place, Grade 7

Hello, my name is Ernie Anderson. For my essay I am choosing my good friend Sam Bell. Now, I know you're thinking, "Oh great! A little boy doing a report on his friend." Well, you'll be in for a surprise.

Our friendship traces back to when we were born. Now you're thinking, "Just shut up and get on with it." So, for your benefit, I will.

Sam is a man full of great qualities and 500 words won't be enough to describe him. Since I want to win, I'll try. To me, respect is as important as money. Sadly, it's not that way for others. To some, like me, respect is given to those who earn it, a.k.a. people who do something or are trying to do something with their life. Sam meets that requirement. He's a good student and plays the piano very well.

Sam is funny. Wait! Scratch that, he's hilarious. Sometimes we have him over just so we can get a few good laughs. I think he can even beat out Chris Farley!

Now, I know you're getting all bummed out, but don't, I want to win! I also know you're thinking, "On with it." So here it goes.

Sam is athletic. He can "beast" in football and basketball. If I go on, I'll use too many words. Now, in this example, some would say he's crazy. He's a right-handed person. He played soccer with a sprained right ankle and still scored three goals. Sam is also a fearless competitor; he'll talk "smack" and play against anyone.

Now wait! Ah, yes, his best quality yet is his friendliness. I'll tell ya', the boy has guts. He'll be friends with anyone, even the worse people.

In closing, I just hope you agree with me about Sam. He's cool, smart, friendly, and has no problem with being **a friend to all!** Peace y'all.

*Ernest C. Anderson, 111*

Third Place, Grade 7



I respect Miss Angie Fowler. She was an employee at the Greater Smyrna/Clayton Boys and Girls Club. I chose Miss Angie because she has taught me right from wrong. She has also taught me that violence is not going to get me anywhere in life. I know that she is there when I need her. She always tries to help me with things and she understands my problems. Most importantly, she shares her wisdom and knowledge with me. I know that when I am going through trouble, she will be right there for me. When a confusing situation causes me to become lost or afraid, I can share my problems with her.

I really admire her because she tells me to always love myself for who I am and believe in myself no matter what other people say or think. Miss Angie is a strong woman who is not afraid of the ignorance of others. I believe and trust in Miss Angie's advice because she is usually right. Miss Angie is an open-minded person who does not hold anything back from me. She can always tell when something is wrong with me. She has a wonderful way of helping me out of arguments and confrontations. She also helps me to positively confront dishonest people and those who do not like me for who I am.

She has a great way of always encouraging me. She always tells me to keep my head up, stay strong, and not to let anyone put me down. Whenever Miss Angie knew that I needed her, she was always there to say, "How can I help you?"

Miss Angie has helped to keep me off of the streets where I could get hurt by drugs. If it was not for her influence, I do not know where I would be. She helped to bring me out of a world where I was surrounded by evil and gave me a place where I could live and play in safely.

At one point in our relationship, Miss Angie helped me to express my feelings and even helped me to face the consequences of my actions. I shed a lot of tears and she let me know that she was there for me. She has always stood by me through thick and thin. She is the one person that I know I can trust with anything that I need to tell her. She always keeps our talks private and she never tells anyone what I say.

Even though she has left the state now, I will keep my courage and beliefs that she has helped instill in me. If I had to choose a role model today, I would choose Miss Angie Fowler. I have learned from her to respect adults and myself. Thank you Miss Angie for all that you have done for me.

*Jaquita Turnage*

First Place, Grade 8

When I think of the word respect, I think of those who I would like to one day be like. There are many people that I respect in life. But one person that I think of is my seventh grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Holleger.

Before entering the seventh grade, a lot of my older friends told me that I would really like her. I think everyone who has had Mrs. Holleger as a teacher thinks of her as their favorite. I think she is the best social studies teacher I have ever had. She made it really fun and easy to learn our history. As she was explaining the lesson, she would make jokes and give great and long examples of whatever we were learning about. This gave us a better understanding of what we were learning about and made taking tests much easier. Most everyone got great grades from her.

One thing that impressed me about Mrs. Holleger is how she would get to a personal level with her students. She was more than just a teacher; she wanted to be our friend. If you were out sick, she would take time out to ask what was wrong with you and tell you to feel better. She would also compliment you, like if someone got a new haircut or new sneakers. Like a friend, she would notice and have something nice to say. Mrs. Holleger is such a fun person with a great sense of humor. She loved telling stories of students she taught in the past. They were mostly funny stories about kids not turning in a particular assignment, usually an assignment that we were doing. Everyone liked to hear her stories.

During spirit week, Mrs. Holleger really gets excited. She got us all to make posters, hats, paper chains, and pom-poms for the pep rally. She really liked to show her school spirit. Winning the pep rally meant as much to her as it did her students. She let us listen to music in class and liked the same kind of music as we did. Every Friday, during team time, we had her for a dance class and she would teach students dance steps.

Mrs. Holleger is certainly one of my favorite teachers I have ever had, and she is a friend. She not only taught social studies; she taught students lessons of life. How students should behave and respect other students and adults. If you had a problem that you felt was something terrible, she had a simple solution that made it not a problem at all.

Mrs. Holleger is truly a special teacher and person. I know I am not alone when I say I respect her. I think most of her students do because she cares for and respects her students as well. Mrs. Holleger always told us how well she remembers her students, and I am sure all of her students will remember her also.

*Kaila Duker*  
Second Place, Grade 8

The person I respect most is Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb. He was drafted by the Eagles in 1999. When he was chosen instead of Ricky Williams, Eagles fans that had made the trip up to New York (the site of that year's draft) booed. Anyone else would have felt so devastated they would have quit, but not Donovan.

The first of many reasons why I respect Donovan McNabb is because he is athletic. I'm sure every kid in our school has an athlete as a role model and Donovan is mine. He threw 20 touchdowns surrounded by a pathetic offense. (Even I admit it!)

The second reason why I respect him is because he is smart. He threw 20 touchdowns compared to 16 interceptions. The interception totals are pretty low for a second year pro football player who is still learning a very complicated offense.

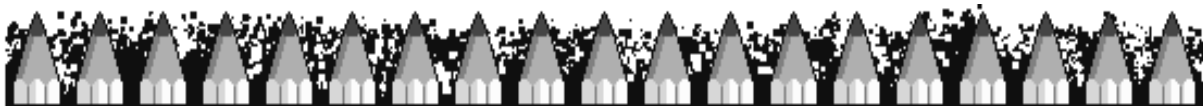
The third reason why I respect him is because he is always cheerful. Whether he throws an interception or a touchdown, there is always a smile on his face.

The fourth reason why I respect him is because he is humble. He doesn't talk trash which is practically a staple in the NFL these days.

Finally, I respect him because he is liked by many. Players, coaches, management, and fans all respect him. I'd say he deserves it the way he has taken a last place team to the second round of the play-offs in just one season. That is quite an accomplishment considering he is just a first year starter.

I respect Donovan McNabb so much I have several cards of him, a poster, and a jersey of his. I hope he becomes an even better player than he is now in the future.

*Tim Conk*  
Third Place, Grade 8





Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12



What is respect? One may say it is: “to show consideration of others.” *Webster’s New Compact Dictionary* defines it as: “showing tremendous honor to one.” I describe deference as: “looking up to another.” One person I have eminent esteem for is my prominent cousin, Aishwarya Nandani Patel. I admire her. She holds numerous majestic qualities. One reason I respect her is because she’s a lot like me. She’s humble, witty, benevolent, conscientious, amicable, enlightened, affectionate, magnanimous, and much more. However, this young woman’s prime traits are her aptitude, sense of humor, and bluntness.

Aishwarya’s intelligence is astonishing! She triumphantly graduated from her high school in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on May 31, 2000, with a grade point average of 3.9. This 18-year old was the valedictorian of her senior class. Whenever my cousin joyously visits, she graciously assists me with my significant schoolwork if I do not understand it. Her understanding goes beyond essential school matters. This sharp-witted teenager continually drew pictures of new, unique, and ingenious methods to style hair. For example, when I went to her fine home in Pennsylvania, she redid my hair so magnificently that I couldn’t stroll down the crowded, pallid street without getting a compliment. It was fantastic!

Out of Aishwarya’s countless remarkable qualities, her humor is extraordinary. She can lightheartedly take a joke and never takes offense. For instance, if someone harshly criticizes her about her distinctive fashion, she shows no concern and gently laughs it off. That makes the person who scrutinized her feel dense. Many people would be dismayed, but Aishwarya will not get furious. She’ll stay aloof and play it off. She also takes jokes very well. She doesn’t stumble upon terms or mess up when reciting them. This female’s superb at it.

Finally, the last characteristic my cousin possesses is her directness. She’s outspoken. She’s not rude but stands up for what she believes is legitimate. If someone does something morally wrong, she forcefully speaks up and tells them convincingly that what they are doing is immoral. For example, my 12-year-old cousin would discriminate against people who were different because she thought she was correct. Aishwarya softly stroked her gentle hair and calmly explained to her that judging a person by the way he appears is erroneous. Also, she strongly opposes drugs. For instance, in February 1999, when her longtime friends foolishly tried illegal drugs, she told them straightforward how she felt, not caring what they thought of her. It’s a marvelous quality she has.

In conclusion, all the qualities mentioned above, which are her cleverness, drollness, directness, and many more make up my cousin, Aishwarya, whom I respect very much. I, with a smile, learn a new thing from her every time she visits. I have learned from her to be compassionate, helpful, optimistic, and truthful. She kindheartedly tells me to obtain pleasure in life and be grateful for what I hold. This female’s amazing! I hope one day someone admires me as much as I do her.

*Kajal Patel*  
First Place, Grade 9

Is there someone in your family who you really respect? I do. It is my grandmother, Geneva Mae Margaret Sudler. She has many excellent qualities. She is very trustworthy and kindhearted and makes miracles every Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let me tell you why.

First, she is trustworthy. I can tell her any information and not worry about her going back and repeating it to anyone else. I have told her about fights and other conflicts I have had with people, and she doesn't go back and tell my parents. Instead, she shows me guidance and tells me the right thing to do. In addition, if she says she'll be somewhere, she will not only be there but is always on time. Once she said she would be at my house at 9:30 a.m. to take my sister, Sydney, and I out to breakfast, and she got there at 9:20. That is why she is a great role model of trust.

Second, my loving grandmother is kindhearted. She is gentle to all of her family members. For instance, if one of her relatives is in need of medical care, she will treat them for their injuries. In addition, she sacrifices her free time to come to my house and take me to basketball practice so I don't miss it. Instead, she could go shopping or stay home and watch television, but she comes and does the favor for me. Furthermore, she hates to hit animals while driving. I've actually seen her eyes tear up after running over a dead animal on the road or seeing roadkill in the middle.

Finally, my talented grandma makes miracles every Thanksgiving and Christmas. She prepares delicious turkey, honey ham, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, greens, buttery rolls, sweet potato pie, pumpkin pie, bread pudding, and rice pudding. Since she makes these mouthwatering foods on both of these holidays, I look forward to each of them. I respect her most during these times because by cooking these delightful meals, it brings her multi-generation family together. She also gives everyone some of the leftovers so that they won't go home empty-handed.

Overall, I respect my grandmother the most. In my opinion, there aren't many people like her. In the future, when I grow up, I will strive to be just like my grandmother. If she asks me to run an errand, there will not be any hesitation from me to do it for her since she does many acts of kindness for me.

*Stacey Sudler*  
Second Place, Grade 9

My brother is a person for whom I have a high amount of respect. I have a high amount of respect for my brother because he is a good role model for me. My brother takes time out of what he is doing to make sure I am on the right track

My brother's name is Antwuan Hampton. Antwuan is twenty years old. Antwuan works at Lowes in Dover. Antwuan is a sophomore at Delaware State University. Antwuan lives with my grandmother in Dover.

I hold highest respect for him because he takes time out from everything to talk. I love Antwuan a lot. I think he is a terrific brother. My brother will go out of his way to make sure I'm doing okay. Antwuan will take me anywhere I ask him. Antwuan comes to my football games and to watch me play. He always takes me and my brother places, and we hang out together.

This is the main reason that I chose my brother. My brother is a perfect role model for me. I look at Antwuan and I see a young African American male that has a good life ahead of him. I admire the fact he stayed in high school. Antwuan stayed at Dover High School and got his diploma. Now he is in college full-time at Delaware State University. He is trying very hard to receive his Engineering/Communications degree. I admire all of that about my brother. I really admire the fact that he is a hard, honest living worker. If one got to know my brother one probably would like him. My brother is a nice person to meet.

My big brother Antwuan Hampton is a person I greatly respect for his actions. Also, I greatly respect him for his accomplishments and qualities. That is why I chose my older brother Antwuan Hampton.

*Keon Hampton*

Third Place, Grade 9

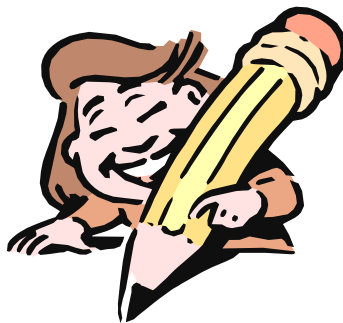


The person I respect was a truly admirable woman. She was my grandmother, Mary Keely Everhart. She was not a rich woman, nor was she famous, but she brightened the lives of all those who loved her. She influenced others to better themselves by being a good friend and mother. She was a positive role model whom I still admire and respect, though she is no longer with us.

I respected my grandmother for many reasons. From an early age she pursued her interest in music, and woke her brothers every morning as she sang at the piano. Her dedication later allowed her to teach piano and voice lessons. She filled my childhood with beautiful music, and helped to make it one of my great loves. She also cheerfully took care of her health, eating healthy foods and influencing her children and grandchildren to do the same. Even as an old woman, she took long walks around her neighborhood and was in excellent health. She was a very bright and optimistic person. She took a positive view of every situation, and still smiles at me from all my memories. She often threw parties for family and old friends, and always kept in close touch with her loved ones. Her brightly colored, elegant clothing reflected her bright and cheery personality. It was probably my grandmother's strength of character for which I admired her most. She was the very picture of a strong woman. She was intelligent, independent, and always chose happiness over despair. Even while the cancer that killed her caused her constant pain, she refused to complain. She had within her all the good qualities which I someday hope to possess myself; my grandmother was more than worthy of my love and highest respect.

I had great respect for my grandmother because of her wonderful outlook on life and the way she lived it. She was a truly beautiful woman because of her strength, intelligence, and optimism. She, a positive role model, helped me to become the person I am now, and she was all the things I hope to be in the future. She is the woman whom I admire and respect.

*Katy Everhart*  
First Place, Grade 10



To me respect is someone that has courage and that you look up to. A person that has influenced me the most fits into this definition of respect. Her name is Sandy Atwood. I have know her for only three years but I feel that I have known her all my life.

First of all, Sandy has had to move from one place to another because of her husband's job, even though she was a major part of our church congregation. Everywhere she has gone she has been able to make many new friends and make the best of her new environment. After many years of living here, she became a well-known person in our church. Mrs. Atwood was the wife of the preacher, the Sunday school teacher for the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and a secret sister. She was also like another parent to most of the kids. To me, she was like my third mother. In addition, she went to all the events in the church. When she moved away from here to Tennessee, everybody in the church missed her, especially me. She had made many friends here and she loved this place so much, but she still could pack up her things and move. To me, that shows a lot of courage.

Furthermore, Sandy treated everyone individually, not making them a group. She learned all of our personalities and gave each of us a place in her heart. I feel very close to her, especially after I cleaned out her really dirty refrigerator. Sandy showed me that loving someone is special. In addition, she taught me that people should not hate anyone because hate is a very strong word. She always tried to make someone feel loved and belonged. When a new girl, named Lauren Stanley, started coming to church, she asked me to try to be her friend. Lauren always sat by herself, until I got her in my group of friends; now, she has a lot of friends.

In conclusion, Sandy had a great strength in the Lord. For example, whenever the pastor talks about the Jesus being crucified, she ends up in tears. Mrs. Atwood is always trying to teach us more about the Lord and live in His way. Even though Sandy has messed up a couple of times in her life, she has been able to put herself back on track. Her devotion in our Lord is as strong as her will to believe. She always tried to make her Sunday school room more like home. By, doing this, we kids feel more comfortable.

Sandy Atwood is a major influence in my life. I cannot find words to explain what a wonderful person Sandy is. I respect her very much because of her ability to move on, her individual treating, and her strength in the Lord. No one can ever fill the place in my heart that is full of love for her.

*Stephanie Federer*

Second Place, Grade 10

To me, respect is a trait earned from one person by another. By definition, respect is high or special regard for someone. A person with all these qualities and more is Mrs. Harrington.

First, I admire Mrs. Diane Harrington's love for her students. She never accepts bad work, because she knows that we are capable of so much more. Mrs. Harrington will give a student's paper back over and over again, until she is convinced that is your best. Even though this causes frustration, this teaches you a lesson. In the long run, a student will edit their own work better and not accept anything less than their best. If this process means that the student will need extra time to redo their paper, then she will take it late. The student will not be penalized either.

Second, I value Mrs. Harrington's hope for me to succeed. She never settled for my first draft on anything. She knew that I could do better, which I always proved her right. She saw potential in my eyes; this caused her to give me extra help. When I continued to make errors, she told me ways to improve my papers. For example, placing commas and rewording sentences. I most admire the fact that she has never given up on me.

Next, I am inspired by Mrs. Harrington's energy for life. Mrs. Harrington is always walking, talking, and writing fast. She is constantly trying to improve her skills and trying new jobs to broaden her horizons. For example, she performed a reading job for grading tests once. Also, she has come up with new ways to grade papers to the students benefit. She leaves her students and coworkers in the wind with her witty comments and stamina. Her pupils always inspire her, and she inspires them.

All in all, I respect Mrs. Harrington because she's a great teacher in every aspect. I have learned how to never settle for less than my best. It will be a sad day indeed when she finally retires.

*Shawna Mesick*

Third Place, Grade 10

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The person that has my highest respect is my grandmother. The reason she has my highest respect is because she was loving, had a very good sense of humor, and was open minded.

My grandmother, who I called mom-mom, was a very loving person. She loved everyone she met, even those who did her wrong. Mom-mom did not hold a grudge against anyone. She looked for the best in a person. Mom-mom believed if she did this, then it would make the world a better place to live in. She thought that if she showed love to a person then they would show love not only to her but others.

My grandmother, also, had a very good sense of humor. Any room mom-mom would walk into she would always make people smile. She would try her hardest to make everything she said, did or heard funny. Mom-mom would always enjoy having a family and friend's cookout. This is because they enjoyed being around someone so happy and funny, mom-mom.

My grandmother was also open-minded. I believed she was open-minded because even if she did not agree with the subject she would give her opinion. She always had something to say. Mom-mom really never talked bad about anyone or anything. She would rather say what they could do better, which she was almost always right about what she said. Whenever she told me something I would listen.

I believe that a lot of people, including friends and family, had very high respect for my grandmother. I had very high respect for her. Even though she is gone, I will always respect her for all she did and said.

*Meghan Morris*

First Place, Grade 11



One person in my life that I greatly appreciate and respect is my father. I admire him for his hard work and ambition. My dad is very caring and supportive, also. He works as a full-time truck driver with a bad shoulder. It gets hard on him at times, but he always manages to pull through. Many times he has pulled overtime and weekend shifts. After work he always comes home and fixes problems around the house, from cutting the grass to repainting the house. He doesn't depend on anyone to take care of him, and I respect people that are independent. My dad is one of the most caring people I know. He is always putting my mom and the other kids before his needs. He gives me everything I have to have, like clothes and equipment for all my sporting activities. He has done so much for my brother and sister, also. He helps them out all the time. Dad is constantly thinking of me and making sure I have every thing that I can possibly want. He treats my mom like a queen, doing all the things she asks of him, and he never forgets a holiday or anniversary. My father is very supportive in everything I do. He comes to watch all of my football games, wrestling matches, and baseball games, cheering me on every time. It is hard to keep up with my schedule, but he finds the time to come see the whole game or when he is late, he even comes just to see me walk off the field.

Overall, my dad is the most respected person in my life, because of his hard efforts to keep all of us together. There were many times where he could have walked out on us because of the family problems and financial problems, but he kept fighting, staying with us every minute. I love him with all my heart and there's nothing that he can do wrong for eternity to make me change the way I feel towards him.

*Scott Slack*

First Place, Grade 12

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The person who had my highest respect would be my mother because she does everything she can to make sure I have a warm place to sleep and have food to eat. My mother and I have been through a lot since my father and her finalized their divorce, which was about four years ago.

My mother just started a new job to keep us from losing our home. She drives two hours to a job that she doesn't even like just to earn us some money to live off of. She is a very hard worker, and she has done many things just to keep my sister and me happy.

My mother also takes me just about anywhere I want to go, or she will let me use her car to take care of my business. There are always times when we argue, but we always end up making up. During baseball and football season, she will be the main person I hear cheering for me in the stands.

In conclusion, all the things I listed makes my mother the most respected person to me.

*Eric Long*

Third Place, Grade 12



# Kindergarten Poster Winners\*



First Place Winner, *Tierra Fenwick*..... A.M. Kindergarten  
Second Place Winner, *Brock Cimo* ..... A.M. Kindergarten  
Third Place Winner, *Maria Hernandez* ..... A.M. Kindergarten

First Place Winner, *Michael Saltarelli* ..... P.M. Kindergarten  
Second Place Winner, *Alyssa Lattomus*..... P.M. Kindergarten  
Third Place Winner, *Katie Mench* ..... P.M. Kindergarten

\* The posters were on display during "I Love the Smyrna School District" day, as well as at the kindergarten. The posters were too large for reproduction in this book.

# Honorable Mention

## Students

<i>Matt Cunningham</i> .....	Clayton Elementary School
<i>Josh Foster</i> .....	Clayton Elementary School
<i>Michael Gardner</i> .....	Clayton Elementary School
<i>Tiffany Caphas</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Mike Chillas</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Billy Davenport</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>James Dixon</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Rodney Hurtt</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Amanda Mood</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Robin Ridgeway</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Richard Thomas</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Aaron Watson</i> .....	Smyrna High School
<i>Kimberly Wilson</i> .....	Smyrna High School

## Adults

<i>Cindy Buxton</i> .....	Community Member
<i>JoVonna Dodge</i> .....	Community Member
<i>Margaret Heath</i> .....	Community Member
<i>Donna Noel</i> .....	Community Member
<i>Lois Ribolla</i> .....	Community Member
<i>Robert Hicks</i> .....	Honorable Mention
<i>Shirley Simmons</i> .....	Honorable Mention