



Smyrna School District

Essay Contest

2003-04

Adult and Student Winners

I ♥ The Smyrna School District

The fourth 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, 2004. 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 on February 28, 2004.

The 2004 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 fourth 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 2004. As always, 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.

Janet Garrett, retired Smyrna High School business teacher, completed the typing and formatting of the publication. Karen Kennedy, Smyrna School District Central Office secretary, assisted with the layout and editing of 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 are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic (deadline in January 30, 2004):

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, 2004).

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, 2004).

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There are times that the “Light” of life can be truly astounding and it’s a blessing to see It shine in some awesome ways. Christopher Hanna’s mom often wonders if he’s aware of how profoundly he has impacted her life.

In recent months, Chris had some issues to work through that held some potentially serious consequences. It was suggested to him that he think about his circumstances and see what he could do to turn things around positively. He took the advice to heart and the soon to be fifteen year old displayed incredible insight that both inspired and humbled his mother.

Reports of a “wonderful” and “delightful” Chris were music to his mother’s ear. Chris had made many positive changes in his life. Not easy changes either as they required a demonstration of humbleness in front of his peers. Hard enough to do as an adult and yet he was succeeding.

Observation of Chris’s marvelous transformation convicted his mother to address her own issues. Willingness to be held accountable for what is spoken and for actions taken can be really tough. “Good intentions” proved themselves NOT good enough. Chris was finding his way through this and his mother was inspired to follow his tenacious dedication to his commitments.

Through Chris Hanna’s continued demonstrations of self-control, responsibility and accountability he has made huge strides toward a successful future and in the process he has been a positive influence on many around him. Keep up the good work Chris!

Debra G. Hanna
First Place, Adult

Representing the Clayton Lions Club, I served on the committee to establish personal values as an important educational effort of the Smyrna School District. I remain proactive as a supportive citizen. Like the previous values—respect, perseverance, and compassion—responsibility is both an inward and outward reflection of one’s character, but is a more all-encompassing standard of conduct. It also has to be learned.

In his book WHO’S LOOKING OUT FOR YOU, Bill O’Reilly challenges the so-called movers and shakers of our society to be less self-serving and more giving for the benefit of others. He takes it as his responsibility as an informing journalist to ferret out the motives of high profile political and professional people, including other media celebrities, as to their slant on reporting the news. He is waving the flag of responsibility for each of us and challenges us to be the friend to our fellow citizens, as we would like them to be to us.

Being a senior member of our community, I have many friends that I consider responsible, but for the purpose of this essay I want to highlight our local representative, Bruce Ennis. I have known Mr. Ennis as a Delaware State Police Officer, a very active member of

Asbury United Methodist Church and the Citizens' Hose Co. of Smyrna, and as a Delaware State Representative for as long as I have lived in Smyrna. He can warm you with his smile, listen and help when requested, follow through with Eagle Scout citations and other community area award ceremonies, and above all represent our best interests as a member of the Delaware General Assembly.

For one who truly has respect for the general welfare of all Delawareans, as to the cost of government activity, Representative Ennis voted to oppose the increase in the number of state representatives from 41 to 44. I later wrote a thank-you letter to the paper for his stance and responsibility in keeping the cap on government. His thanks for looking out for us was a wrist slapping from his peers by redrawing the district boundary lines separating the Clayton and Smyrna communities and deleting other areas he formerly served. However, Bruce never shirked his responsibility to his church, community, or most importantly to his constituents.

The act of responsibility takes on as many "points of light" as there are jobs, professions, family duties, citizen roles, age brackets, religious preferences, caregivers, individuals, and civic groups. A single person may have many different responsibilities each day as he or she performs his daily tasks. Shirking any one responsibility has an effect on something or someone. All responsibilities need to be taken seriously by everyone if we expect society in general to be functional.

When asked by his mother for some help, my grandson responded, "I can't help you, I'm only three years old." His response was based on his recall of some other conversations about being three years old and certainly triggered a humorous reaction by his mother, but it makes a point for this writer as to when and how responsibility becomes action or inaction for a child. It details the fact that responsibility must be learned, and it certainly points a finger as to who is responsible for teaching responsibility.

A free society has a very awesome mission of caring, and we all must care enough to accept it. A care-free society will soon self-destruct unless we assume our share of the responsibility.

Samuel V. Mace
First Place, Adult



“I am nice to my friends. I help them when they fall down.”

Allison Wheatley
First Place, Kindergarten



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

Jenna Scuse is responsible. She helps me clean up. She keeps her desk clean. She comes to the classroom on time. She said she would play with me at recess and she did. I'm glad Jenna is my best friend.

Ally Vance

First Place, Grade 1

I am a responsible person. I am responsible for feeding my dog every night and before that I take out the trash and do my homework. But the most responsible thing that really impressed my parents was I helped my baby cousin up the big slide. My mom was happy.

Amber Carrow

Second Place, Grade 1

Hayden is responsible. He helps me with my homework. He feeds the dogs. He makes his bed. I am glad that he is responsible. He is a nice brother. I love him and he loves me too.

Haley Lloyd

Third Place, Grade 1

Do you want to know how I am responsible? If you do here are some ways. At my mom's house I take out the trash. In the car or somewhere else I help by giving my baby sister a bottle when she cries. And when my dog or cats' food and water dishes are empty I put more in them. When my step mom asks for my little sister to dry the dishes and she says no, I do them. And when big tests come in school I study for them because I want a good grade. And that is how I am responsible.

Alexis Snyder

First Place, Grade 2

Would you like to hear how I am responsible? Every time I get home my brother and I wash the dishes. While we're doing it, I let my dog out. When we are done I let him in again. In the morning I make my bed. I also make sure my bedroom is clean. Sometimes I baby-sit my mom-mom's dog Shophie. Then I get the mail and put it on the counter. While I get the mail, I take the trash down to the end of the lane. Sometimes I help my mom with the groceries. Then I help her put them away. Then I go upstairs and I get all of the dishes out of everybody's rooms. Then my brother and I wash the dog. Then I dry him and he shakes and gets us a little wet. Then I brush him. Then I do all of my homework. Then I say that I bet everybody in my family is proud of me, and I bet I am being a good citizen.

Megan Reed

Second Place, Grade 2

(To her journal) I'm writing about my friend. Her name is Mackenzie. She is responsible because she never lies and she gets her work done. She never hurts people by saying something mean. She never does anything bad and she is polite. In school she helps me with my work and she never gets bad grades. She always gets her homework in and she never talks while the teacher is. I'm glad she's my friend.

Samantha Geedy

Third Place, Grade 2

(To her diary) Have you ever had someone special, and wanted to be just like them when you are an adult; but lost them a few weeks before you turned three? Well, I have and he was a

very responsible man. My Pop Pop Wilson was the kindest and most responsible man I've ever met.

There are tons of reasons why my Pop Pop Wilson was responsible. When I was two, Pop Pop Wilson used to watch me and all of my cousins play for hours. On Thanksgiving Pop Pop used to make the turkey and after everyone ate he would clean the dishes. Pop Pop was the one who brought my dad through college. He worked hard every day to keep his family healthy and wealthy.

I could have chosen millions of people but Pop Pop Wilson was most responsible. One of the reasons why my Pop Pop was chosen was because he is such a great example of what a citizen really is. Pop Pop taught my dad how to take after him, and my dad is now as great as he was.

Well thanks diary, you know what? My Pop Pop was sort of like you, always listening to all of my questions and giving me answers. My Pop Pop was like an angel sent from heaven to take care of my family. The angel of my life may be gone, but I still have the spirit and that will always be in me. Thanks again diary. If you ever need any help, Angel Kenny is watching and I'm sure he'll help you with whatever is happening.

Brittany Wilson

First Place, Grade 3

(To his journal) My brother is exceptionally helpful. I don't know what my life would be like without him! He is responsible as a brother, playmate, and mini-construction worker. He is responsible as a brother because he plays with me. He would rather be playing games, but he plays with me instead. I don't think some brothers would care. Also, when we're going on vacations, and I forget stuff, he's the one who gets it. Finally, when he would rather be playing games or playing with me, he reads his books. Most brothers would have to be told over and over again. I wonder why he does. Do you know anyone who wouldn't? Well, that's why he's responsible as a brother.

He's also responsible for playing with me. Even though he's not willing to, he plays in my room. Usually he would want to play in his room so he can boss me around! But, he doesn't. Sometimes he gives me alone time. That's when he plays his games and I play mine. I don't think anyone else would. Also, he plays my X-box, even though he's not wanting to. He doesn't even know how to play the games, but he does. I really like him playing with me.

He also works when he's supposed to. For example, when my dad asks me to clean the garage, he helps me. I really, really feel like he's an alien or something. He also gets the cat's water. Hmmm, wonder why? Sigh, I wish I knew. I think lots of brothers complain about it. Ryan also helps me build things. Like paper planes, tanks, and helps me draw stuff, etc. Jeez, Ryan is so helpful! That's why Ryan is helpful at being a brother, playmate, and mini-

construction worker. Hopefully he continues to do this even when he's an adult (adults are cranky!). So he will be a very helpful person. So, see ya journal, my mom is calling me for karaoke! Let's get jiggy with it! Ha-ha!

Chris Harris

Second Place, Grade 3

(To her journal) Many people are responsible but my mom is special. You can always depend on her. If it wasn't for her you wouldn't be here. As a mom, helper, and friend she is the best.

My mom is a great mom. She cleans my room whenever I forget. That is why you have a clean shelf to rest on when I'm not writing in you. She is always prepared. When I got hurt she had bandages. She treats me good. She also buys me toys. This shows that my mom is the best.

Not only is my mom the best but she is also a good helper. She helped my neighbor put up her curtains. She never goes back on a promise. She said she would take me to the mall and she did. That is how I got you. She also helps my friends. When we had a party she painted my friends' faces. This shows that my mom is a great helper.

Have I ever mentioned that my mom is a great friend to have? She takes care of my neighbor's daughter. When she had to go to the store she took care of her. You would really like my mom as a friend. My mom also reviews tests with me. When I got a bad grade on my math test she reviewed it with me. She also mows my neighbor's lawn. This shows that my mom is a good friend to have.

In conclusion, I could tell many more stories, but my mom would go crazy. So after doing all this to me, this shows that my mom is a great mom, helper, and friend. Gotta go, she is calling me now. Bye.

Charlie Stibbs

Third Place, Grade 3

(To her diary) I've never really thought about it before, but being a minister, like Reverend Riley, takes a lot of responsibility.

Every Sunday he has to have an hour long church service, that's a lot of writing and brainstorming! You really can't just "not do it." It must be hard without a weekend break!

Besides that, Reverend Riley helps out people who need money. He writes out the church check, and tries to make them Christians. That's got to be hard! He also gives baptisms and funerals like the one he is giving this week.

He also has a family to take care of: his wife, Mrs. Riley, 15-year-old Erin, and 12-year-old Shannon. He is a good father to his girls.

On top of his busy schedule, Reverend Riley is getting a doctorate in Virginia. That's a lot of work!

If you really think about it, all that takes a tremendous amount of responsibility! All working citizens have quite a lot of responsibility, but it would be really hard to be a minister, and a great one like Reverend Riley!

Allison Hall

First Place, Grade 4

One day my mom and dad were going to a party in Pennsylvania, and my brother had to watch us. At first I was really angry because my brother and I don't really get along. But it turned out to be really fun. This is what happened that day. It was the morning and my mom woke me up when she was blow drying her hair. So I got up out of bed, and they were ready to go. So they gave me a hug and kiss and they left. I murmured to myself, "Great, now I am stuck with my brother." A couple hours later my brother and sister got up. My brother (Will) made us breakfast—an egg sandwich. He let us sit around in our pajamas for a little while. Then he told us to go and get dressed so we could go to the park. My sister (Kelsey) played on the play set, and Will and I played basketball. After that Will took us to Nina's for lunch. After that we went home, and Will let us play with our bratz. (That can make such a mess). Around five we went to go get dinner. An hour or so later Kelsey and I went upstairs to see what Will was doing. He was playing his play station two. So Kelsey and I got to take turns racing my brother. Then my mom and dad came home. So we went downstairs and watched TV with them and told them how Will was so responsible.

Kaitlin Brown

Second Place, Grade 4

(To his journal) I am lucky to have such a great and responsible dad. He works so hard for me and my family. He also puts our needs before his own. Best of all, my dad spends time with me. Let me tell you about the day I had with him.

My dad works in a steel mill. He is an electrician. It is dangerous work. He leaves the house every morning when it's still dark. When he comes home we all run to hug him. He tries to get home as soon as he can to be with us.

My dad puts me first. Even if he wants something, he buys what I want first. He takes care of me. When my mom isn't home, he is a good cook.

He also plays games with me and watches TV shows I like. Sometimes he even takes me fishing. He doesn't even mind when I catch most of the fish.

My dad is very responsible and I love him a lot.

Seth Snyder

Third Place, Grade 4



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

I think responsibility is doing your job, and if you don't do your job there are consequences.

When I get home, I always have to do my homework. If I don't, my mom and dad will yell at me. Every day at school I have to listen to the teacher. And if you don't listen to the teacher you won't know what to do. In my community I am supposed to clean my community. Responsibility means you're being a good citizen.

Shanyn Austin

First Place, Grade 1

When you are responsible you do what is expected of you. To be responsible I do what I am told to do. To be responsible I do my chores. I bring my library book back. I clean my room. I make sure that I do the dishes. I do my homework. Responsibility is in your whole life. I am really responsible.

Amber Morris

Second Place, Grade 1

Responsibility means doing your job without being told. At home I wash the dishes. At school I don't fight. In my community I wear my seatbelt. I love to be responsible.

Brianna Cephas

Third Place, Grade 1

(To her diary) I will tell you about an amazingly responsible person. She is very responsible in many different ways. Let me tell you of some ways! First, she is responsible at school. My friend is responsible at school because she listens to her teacher all the time. She will do anything her teacher asks her to do. She'll do any work she has to do. She does anything she thinks someone expects out of her. Also, my friend is responsible at home because she always does her chores. One time my friend needed to feed the dog and she wanted to get done so she could play with me. So she did that instead and then she played with me. Her chores are:

cleaning her room, making her bed, feeding the dog, and helping mom around the house. Next, she is also responsible to herself because she never gives up. Also she is responsible because she tries new things that she thought she would not like. Finally, she is responsible to the environment because she never litters and picks up the littering that other people have left behind. My friend will never pick wildflowers. She takes pictures of them instead. So now you see this person is very responsible and that person is Ashley.

Katie Withrow

First Place, Grade 2

(To his journal) The one responsible person I know is my dad, Mike Burris. He is the best dad ever. He keeps his promises and he makes good choices.

My dad makes good choices for his family. My dad makes houses for people and goes to work every day to get more money for his family and keep a house for us. He goes to church every day. He plays in the snow and works every day. Even when it snows he still works.

Mike Burris is a dependable father. He remembers my birthday and he keeps his promises. I trust him. He taught me to try my best and never give up.

Mike Burris is the best dad, as you can see. He is a responsible person and I'm happy he's my dad.

Reno Hart

Second Place, Grade 2

Kacey is responsible. She is trustworthy, does things when you tell her to do it, and gets her work done. Kacey is trustworthy because you can count on her to keep a secret, she cleans up her things the first time you tell her to do it, and she does all of her work. I didn't just pick Kacey because she is my friend; I picked her because she is fair and responsible. Kacey is helpful and if she did something wrong she wouldn't blame her brother and sister. She would blame herself. I want to be responsible like Kacey and do all of the great things she does. I'm so happy I have a responsible friend like Kacey.

Kendra Williams

Third Place, Grade 2

(To his journal) Today my teacher said we are going to write about a responsible person. So I am going to tell you about a person who is responsible and follows on commitments. By the end of this entry you will know what responsibility really is.

The person I'm talking about is Mr. Jeff Stoner. Of course, he's my dad. He has the responsibilities of a school teacher. He instructs kids who need more help in math and English. It's his responsibility to find ways to teach them so they can learn. Another way he is responsible is at home. My dad takes care of the house by paying the taxes and looking out for my step mom. A third responsibility is being a coach. He is a coach for three great teams. One of them is my PAL basketball team for three straight years! My dad coached another team, a Smyrna track team, which flies at the speed of light. He also coached a kicking soccer team in Smyrna. That's how Mr. Jeff Stoner is responsible. But, the most responsible thing he does is being my dad because he takes care of me when I'm sick. My dad also protects me from danger. That's how my dad is responsible.

My dad makes me feel responsible because when I grow up I want to be a good husband. I also want to make sure I get a good job. I want to be responsible to get to work on time. Another way he makes me feel responsible is that he is almost on time for everything. When he gets to work on time it makes me feel good to get to school on time. My dad makes me feel responsible about those things.

Would you like to hear about a time when my dad was responsible? Well, we were late for basketball practice one night. But he didn't say we're not going. No! We got in the car and went. When we got there we only got 25 minutes to play, but it was better than nothing. That's how my dad was a responsible coach.

So, I talked about how my dad is responsible, how he makes me feel, and a little story. Let's review what responsibility is. Responsibility is when you do something without any complaints. I hope you liked this entry.

Jacob Stoner

First Place, Grade 3

(To her diary) My mom has shown how responsible she is by taking care of me and my family! When I think about it, she is the most responsible person I know! She makes dinner and goes to work on time. My mom tries to come on my field trips and special occasions at school. These are just a few reasons she is responsible.

My mom works at a rehabilitation center in Smyrna. She answers the phones and types down their appointments on the computer; she organizes the information for the doctors. That shows responsibility. She also checks their blood pressure. My mom works as hard as she can, and she follows the rules.

Her responsibility reflects on me by how she acts and makes decisions. She is honest and truthful. My mom respects others for who they are. She tells me to never give up on what I love to do. She also tells me to not take things for granted.

One time when my mom demonstrated being responsible is when I got hurt. I fell on a chair and broke open my stomach. She took deep breaths and held my hand while daddy called 911. She came with me to the hospital. My mom makes me feel so responsible. She is a great role model!

Everyone should act responsible like my mother. She is always doing something responsible. I can always count on my mom. She will always be a nice, respectful, and responsible person! When I grow up, I hope to be a nice, respectful, and responsible person too!

Ashley Lennon

Second Place, Grade 3

Would you like to know Miss Downs' responsibilities? They are house chores, learning from Mrs. Lowe, and being on time. The student teacher has a lot of duties she needs to do. Miss Downs does these things every once in a while; others she does every day.

The first chore Miss Downs has is being on time. She has to get to school early so she can learn from Mrs. Lowe and become a teacher. The student teacher has to pick us up at specials on time so the specials teacher is not held up. Miss Downs has to be at school so she can be prepared for the day. The student teacher has to get to school on time so she can do all of those jobs.

The next chore Miss Downs has is learning from Mrs. Lowe. The student teacher has to know what to do when she is a teacher. Miss Downs has to watch Mrs. Lowe so she knows what tool to use for each subject. Miss Downs also needs to know the rules for the tool she is using.

Next you're going to learn about Miss Downs' last responsibility. That is her house chores. One of Miss Downs' jobs at home is cleaning up. Another job Miss Downs does at home is cooking dinner. The last responsibility Miss Downs does at home is washing clothes. She does that most of the time.

Now you have an idea of some of Miss Downs' jobs. I bet Miss Downs has many more responsibilities. That's all of the chores I know the student teacher has. Now you know some of the student teacher's jobs. I wrote about Miss Downs because she has many responsibilities. That's why I chose Miss Downs.

Kevin Dunkleberger

Third Place, Grade 3

(To his journal) Did you know that I have an extremely responsible person in my life? Well, I do. She's my mom. Her name is Susan Marie Hughes. She teaches and that's a lot of responsibility if you ask me. She also is an awesome mom!!! She takes care of horses; I don't like horses that much so I have no clue how she does that.

My mom teaches 7th grade at Smyrna Middle School. Boy, I wouldn't want to do that. She's always helping kids out. But she can't say anything stupid because my sister goes to that school, and it takes a lot of responsibility not to be a blabber mouth. But not only does she help kids but she helps teachers too. She's also been teaching for 17 years!!!

Not only is my mom a spectacular teacher but she's a fabulous mother as well. She helps me on almost everything I do. She also sets a good example for my sister and me. My dad and I sit around all day, but not my mom. She's like Super Woman, so that means she takes care of my dad too.

My mom also takes care of horses. Every single Sunday we go to see the horses. There names are Red, Jack, Dan, and J.J. We take care of Dan, that's my sister's horse. My mom always remembers my sister and me. When we ride, she's always nervous that we might get hurt.

In summary, I told you about my responsible mom being a teacher, then just being a respectful mother, then how fastidious she is with horses. So if anyone sees my mom they think there's Susan Marie Hughes, the most responsible person in the WORLD!!!!

Jake Hughes

First Place, Grade 4

(To his journal) I am taking a break from my chores and I remembered that they are my responsibilities. That made me think of people I know who are very responsible. One of those people is my mom. She is extremely responsible. I am glad she is responsible because my class has to write a responsibility essay for a writing contest.

Karen Pritt is a member of my school's PTO where she has a lot of responsibilities. One time she was in charge of a fund-raiser. She had to count all of the money. Then she had to fill all the orders, and after that mom had to deliver all of the merchandise. That was a lot of work, but mom did it because she made a commitment, and it was her responsibility.

My mom also shows responsibility at her work as a teacher. She always completes grading her papers at night. The only time mom doesn't go to school is when she has surgery. She also coaches sports. Mom is always at practices and games on time. She works hard not to give up. Mom even gives up vacations in the spring. A lot of students and athletes depend on mom, and she takes that responsibility very seriously.

As a wife and mother, mom has to take care of her family. She has to take care of Hunter and me. She helps us do our homework. Mom helps us when we are hurt. She also has to make

sure we eat. Mom even has to take care of dad. She supplies him with money. When dad gets out of the shower and gets dressed, he states, “Karen, you got any money?” Mom declares, “Yes.” “Can I have some?” “Sure.” That is how mom is responsible with her family.

Well, I better get back to my chores. Mom is depending on me to get them done. I am responsible with my chores just like she is with her family, work, and the PTO. I’ll see you tomorrow.

Tyler Pritt

Second Place, Grade 4

(To his journal) Do you know anyone who is extremely responsible? If you do know anyone would you tell me who it is? The reason I asked you that question is because I’m going to tell you a person who is really responsible. Her name is Trisha D. Merritt and she deals with hundreds of kids a day and at the same time takes care of her family. If you met her do you think she was responsible?

At North Elementary Trisha’s name should be Mrs. Responsibility. She runs the library and is still as responsible as ever even when she is in a room full of kids that she has to teach. Whenever a child gets numerous late slips she sits in the library with the kid and still she is responsible. Trish does lunch duty with no fuss whatsoever. I wonder how she could be so responsible.

Trish runs the library at North Elementary. She keeps track of all the books in the library. In the mornings and mid-afternoons she checks books out to her students. Often she will read a book to her students. She’ll assign you a new seat if you talk during library. Trish has been responsible since I was born.

At home Trish is just as responsible. She cleans the house till it’s squeaky clean. When I do my homework she will help me. How does she do it?

Trish is a very responsible person. She has done so much for her children. When she is at school she helps the kids learn. She has taught everyone she knows about responsibility.

Jeb Merritt

Third Place, Grade 4



Grades 5 and 6

(To her diary) My Mom, Michele Botsch, is a very responsible person. She means a lot to me and is always there to help. She's always in charge, never loses her cool, and has enormous amounts of things to do—but she can handle it all. I love her just because she's my Mom, but watching her actions makes me even prouder.

I ice skate three to four times a week at the University of Delaware. Mom takes me up to the rink and makes sure I have my skating clothes, my music, and my skates. On Monday nights my Mom volunteers her time to run the ice times. She helps people register into the club, and she collects the money from the people ice skating during that ice time. On my synchronized skating team she is the team mom. She helps all of the other girls put on their skates, get dressed, and carry all of their things to the locker room.

Even though she's at the rink a lot, she still manages to help my little sister get her schoolwork done. She has time to read with her, play with her, and just plain be with her.

My Mom takes care of our household with ease. There are four people in my house including my Mom. She makes sure that we all get to sit down and have dinner together, and that every single one of us always has the supplies we need.

My Mom always stays true to her commitments. One time my grandmother went to her cousins for awhile. She (my grandmother) usually takes care of my great-grandmother, Mom-Mom Bessie. Well, while she was gone my Mom took care of Mom-Mom Bessie. Three times a day my Mom went to Mom-Mom Bessie's house. She fixed lunch, dinner, and later on in the day helped her get ready for bed. My Mom took three moments out of her day—even though we were moving into our new house—to help my great-grandmother get around her house. If that's not responsible I don't know what is!

I hope I can be like my Mom when I get older. She's kind, caring, and very wise. She's the most responsible person I know!

Chelsea Botsch

First Place, Grade 5

(To her journal) Today I just realized how much responsibility my mom has. Her responsibilities include: cooking, cleaning, working, paying the bills, driving, buying our food, shopping with me for clothes, doing our laundry, and helping with my homework and dogs. I didn't think that she had so many responsibilities. She makes sure that we have clean clothes, our dinner is ready, helps me and my sister with our homework, drives us places we need and want to go to, and pays the bills on time.

Another responsibility my mom has involves taking care of my grandparents. My grandparents live with us because my grandfather suffers from a disease called Alzheimer's and my grandmother needs help taking care of him. Driving my grandmother to the doctor's office and grocery store are a few of the ways my mom helps her mother. Helping my grandfather is a different story.

Before my grandfather got sick he did a lot for my grandmother. He used to take care of the bills, fix things around the house, and drive my grandmother around. A lot of those responsibilities my mom does now.

My mom feels that it's her responsibility to take care of the needs of her husband, children, and her parents. My grandmother knows that she can rely on my mom when it's time to feed, dress, or take care of my grandfather's personal needs.

When I see how my mom has made personal sacrifices in order to help someone in need, I feel happy. I appreciate my mom more knowing the responsibilities she has.

Sarah Tweed

Second Place, Grade 5

(To her diary) Someone that I know who is loving, caring and responsible is my dad. My dad is compassionate and he treasures us with all of his heart. I would like to tell people how responsible he is and how lucky I am to have him as my dad.

My dad is responsible because he does everything he can to take care of me and my family. He works hard to make our life better every day. He helps with paying the bills, our homework, and our animals and still has time to play with us. I feel lucky to have a dad that takes the time in his busy day to play with us. He plays soccer, play station, games, baseball, and many other fun things. He does all of this after working all day long!

My dad even helps us do our chores! He helps us clean our room, do our wash, and whatever our chore is for any particular day. When my dad cleans, he doesn't even yell at us because we didn't do it. This makes us want to do the right thing and help around the house. When my mom was in school full time, my dad had to come home from working all day and cook dinner, do the dishes, and make sure we took a bath and got ready for bed—all this before sitting down himself.

Lastly my dad spends a lot of time doing soccer with us and the CDSA organization. My brother, my sister, and I play competitive soccer for CDSA which is very time consuming. Every week, we spend four nights during the week at practice and our games are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. My dad takes us to practice and he coaches my brother's team.

I feel my dad is a very responsible person and handles his responsibilities very well. He is a positive influence to his children and to other children whose lives he touches through coaching. I hope when I grow up, I take after him and become a responsible adult. He is a great role model and someone that I am very proud to call Dad.

Maggie Short

Third Place, Grade 5

Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. I know someone who is responsible in my life is Willie. He is responsible because he takes care of me.

Willie shows responsibility in several ways. One way is he keeps me out of trouble. Another way is he makes sure I am dressed for school. Then Willie puts on my shoes and then he leaves for school.

Willie shows me many ways I can be responsible. He reminds me to do my homework. Willie tells me to clean my room. If I clean my room, I get to go on the computer.

I remember a time when Willie showed me responsibility. One time when I lost my game boy, he went into my room to find it. I gave him a kiss when he found it. He also makes sure I have my breakfast in the morning.

In conclusion, Willie is responsible in many ways. That is why I wrote about him. I want to thank him for showing me responsibility in these ways.

Frances Smith

First Place, Grade 6

(To his journal) I want to mention who I think is the most responsible person to me. He is my older brother and his name is Tim Oscar. He is responsible to me because he takes care of my three brothers, two sisters and me. He also helps out my mom most importantly. The last thing he does to be responsible is he goes to college, gets good grades, and has a job.

The first reason why I think my brother is so responsible is he takes care of everyone in my family and me. He takes care of us by helping us with school work and anything else we have trouble with like chorus or fun activities. He also makes sure that everyone in my family is ready for school the next day. He checks our homework, makes sure we took a shower or bath, and makes sure we brushed our teeth before we go to sleep. The last thing he does for us is he will take us places, and gets us stuff that we need like clothes and shoes. That's what my brother does for us to show responsibility.

The next thing my brother does to show responsibility is he helps out my mom a lot. For one he takes care of us when she is at work. He also helps her pick up and clean the house when she is gone. That's the main reason why I think he is so responsible.

The last and final reason why I think my brother is responsible is he goes to college, gets good grades, and has a job. Every night Tim is either upstairs in his room doing homework or studying for a test that is coming up. He has to study hard because some nights he has to go to work three or four nights a week until like ten or eleven o'clock so he is really tired. But he still gets up every morning and goes to college and gets good grades. That's how he is responsible to me.

These are all ways to be responsible and my brother does them all. I hope that he keeps doing all these things because he being responsible is why I look up to him. That's why I hope to be just as responsible as he is.

Chris Oscar

Second Place, Grade 6

(To her journal) In everyone's family, they have a person who is super special to them. In my family, everyone is special and unique. But there is one person who I think is very responsible. Now, a responsible person is someone who remembers, cares, does what is needed, is on time, and loves. Picture this: my family is like a sky full of stars. Each one shines bright, but my Pop-pop is the most responsible person I've met. He is my star.

My Pop-pop's name is Fred Hubert. He is very responsible for his actions. For one example, he is kind to everyone, whether he likes them or not. He talks to and treats people with respect, young and old. My Pop-pop tries to be buds with everyone he meets. He's a people-kind-of-person.

Since my Grand pop is retired, he has to be responsible with his money. He uses and spends his money wisely to take care of his family. My Pop-pop is responsible for watching out for his family and he does a great job at that. He also does a good job at spoiling my brother, sister, and me when he doesn't have to. My Pop-pop gives us money and takes us places, like to the boardwalk and beach. We always have fun with him.

My Pop-pop also is responsible when he does what needs to be done. For one example, if something breaks or needs to be renewed, he's always fixing or replacing it. He's a handy kind of guy to have around. My Grand pop keeps his promises too. When he says he'll be there, he's there. And he's there on time too. Such as my concerts or special times, he's there watching me with a look of pride in his eyes. And I'm always proud of him for showing up.

I don't get to see my Pop-pop often, but when I do, it makes me so happy. I'm proud to say my Grand pop is very responsible, which makes him shine so bright. My Pop-pop is always there for me, and I can't imagine what my life would be like without him. I bet he would be so happy to hear all the great true things I've said about him in this journal. But I am even more honored to write about him. And I'm glad that I have someone as loving, caring, and responsible as him in my life that I cherish so deeply.

Melissa Hubert

Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 7 and 8

Now, I know that in the world today various responsible people are living. They are customarily grown men or women who help out the community. But in my eyes, the most responsible person in the world is my little sister, Alyssa Cook. This is because at the petite age of four years old she commits uncountable deeds most grown people aren't capable of.

First, this amazing little girl is always helping my mother out with chores. Seven days a week, Alyssa cleans several rooms without being told to. She cleans her room first thing in the morning. After that, it's off to the living room to tidy the most essential room of the house. Other rooms my younger sibling neatens throughout the day include her toy room and even *MY* room.

Next, a lot of parents have trouble getting their children to care for their own pets. However, this does not occur at my house. Alyssa is constantly making sure that the cats have food and water. Also, she cleans out their litter boxes once every two days. Last but certainly not least, the four-year-old sister of mine presents her cats, Luna and Puffy, with plenty of exercise by frolicking alongside them by the hour.

Yet another implausible action displayed by Alyssa is the ability to remind my mom when she has something to do. Since my very occupied mom has a hair salon inside my family's house, Alyssa never stops informing my mom of the time of a customer's appointment. My sister can also shockingly remember whether to wake my parents up early or not, when my family has doctor's appointments and even knows where my brother and I are at the time.

Jesse Cook
First Place, Grade 7

Patricia Savin is the most responsible person I know. She is responsible for her actions as family member, teacher and student.

As a family member, she thinks of us at all times. Even when she is sick, she carries through with her role as a mom. There is always food to eat and clothes to wear. During the Delaware State Fair, she manages to find time to do laundry, cook, and sweep. We have been there for three years. My sister and I show cows. It is hard to find time between shows and other events to go back to the camper to do those things!

Patricia may not be a schoolteacher but she is a teacher. No matter where she is—helping kids cross the street as Clayton Elementary's crossing guard, at a 4-H event, or at home—she is always teaching. If anyone has a question she tries to answer it to her best ability. It could be a simple question like how to get home, or a tough question for a first grader like "Who is my teacher?"

My Mom is a student of life—especially things dealing with our farm. Last year at a seminar she learned a lot. Patricia feels it is her responsibility to help when we give the animals

medication. If a cow is due to calf she keeps a close eye on it! She asks for help if she needs it or doesn't understand.

As you can see my Mom is a very responsible person. She is the most responsible person I know. From her I have learned so much it would take forever to list them all. The most important thing that I have learned from her is to be responsible, and because of her I am responsible!

Melissa Savin

Second Place, Grade 7

It's really incredible how my mom does it all: washing the clothes, doing the dishes, feeding the cats, feeding my brother and me, cleaning our house, paying all of the bills, working as a Licensed Practical Nurse, and still hanging out with me on the weekend. How she does it all is beyond me!

My mother, MaryAnn Connor, is totally nice, totally responsible, and way too cool. MaryAnn does everything for me and everyone in a five-yard range. One time, we were at the Atlantic Book Store and this man flipped his entire motorized wheelchair on top of himself! We were about to leave when we heard this happen. My mom stopped the car and said, "Stay here, I'll be right back" as she ran to assist the helpless man. A crowd started to gather, trying to help the man. Finally, a group of people, including my mother, saved that man's life in a way. Yeah, she could have just walked away, but the fact is she didn't. She felt as though it was her duty as an American to save that man's life.

Responsibility is a weird trait. My mom understands it completely, although I don't. I look to her for my examples in life. I guess in a way, the responsibility in my life, which is not a lot, is totally and completely her doing. She tells me to put on my seatbelt. She tells me to do my homework. She is the reason I'm here today. She is totally responsible for me, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I guess she does it because she loves me.

My mother has a tough job. She works as an L.P.N., or Licensed Practical Nurse, at Green Valley Pavilion. My mother has to be responsible for the residents and must make sure they are in the best condition every day and every night. Responsibility is needed at her work, and she's got it down. Either that or she could let them die, but she can't do that because she's the best nurse in the world, or at least in my world.

My mother has never gone a day without using responsibility. It's probably a good thing to have such a responsible mother. I love her and that's what counts.

Kristin Connor

Third Place, Grade 7

The most responsible person I know is my cleaning lady, Anita DeVary, affectionately know as Miss Banita. She is a hard worker, family member, citizen, and wonderful friend. She is very responsible in these roles.

Since I was a little girl, I've known her as my "cleaning lady." She comes to my house once every other week. This may seem simple but it is not. She mops, dusts, vacuums and changes sheets. She not only cleans my house but others all over. One house is where my 90-year-old great-grandmother lives alone. She works hard and does her job well.

Anita is also a responsible citizen. She is a volunteer Sunday school teacher at her church. She educates the youth about the church and its teachings. On occasion, she has church members over for dinner. Everyone is welcome.

Anita also has a family of a husband, two sons, and a daughter. When one of her sons was four years old, he was diagnosed with leukemia. She had many responsibilities to care for him. Her other son is in the military. Anita knows it is her responsibility to support him as he defends our country. Now that her children have grown, she baby-sits her grandchildren and often times takes them to work with her.

Finally, Anita is a responsible friend. She is a friend and a helper to my great-grandmother. She talks to her and makes sure each day she lives is a happy one. Anita was at the hospital when my great-grandfather died. She was a responsible friend in his time of need.

Anita DeVary is a very busy woman. Even though she may feel pulled from every direction at times, she remains a responsible worker, citizen, family member and friend. These responsibilities, the people and the community she cares for motivate her to continue.

Cara Morris

First Place, Grade 8

Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. My superb mother, Gail Hinkle, is a prime example of a responsible person. She carries many responsibilities on her shoulders with two children who are very active in extracurricular

activities, and a busy husband. With a tragic event that occurred last year, my mother has now gained more responsibility on her part. She must now be responsible for our household as well.

Gail is such a wonderful person inside and out. She has a heart like no one else I know. My mother is so caring, generous, and would go out of her way for anyone. She is also a source of encouragement for everyone. If you have a bad day and you feel as if a dark storm cloud is engulfing you, Gail would be the bright sunshine to make your day turn to joy. She feels one of her responsibilities in life is to give everyone a helping hand no matter the color of your skin, your gender, or your religion.

To her, family is the first priority in her life and it shows with everything she has done for us. My brother and I are both very active in after-school activities and sports. My brother Brian participates in wrestling, and she always makes sure he gets to practice. She also takes him to all of his tournaments. I participate in a traveling softball team which requires lots of time and hours of practice after school. My mom always takes me to all of my practices and every one of my tournaments which takes up hours of her time. I know there are many other things she would rather be doing than just watching me, but she has self-control and plans her life around mine.

When there is time for her, she usually spends it shopping for groceries or cleaning the house. Last year a tragedy happened: my father seriously injured himself at work and is not able to return to work. So now my mom is working long hours to take responsibility financially. This consists of bills, providing food, and meeting the needs of the family. She is the most reliable person I know.

My mother has made a huge impact on my life as a person. She is so committed to everything she does, and concerned about her family. Gail has influenced my life by being my role model and idol. I hope when I grow older I am able to be as responsible as her, but I don't think anyone could fill her shoes. She will bend over backwards for you and do anything in the world for her family. Responsibility means being reliable and following through on commitments. Gail defines responsibility through her actions. I hope one day I can be as responsible as she is.

Lauren Hinkle
Second Place, Grade 8

Smyrna School District has many wonderful core values. Among the best of these values, the one we show the most use of is responsibility. Responsibility is the quality of being reliable and going through with commitments. Of all the people I know, there is only one who truly defines responsibility. This one unique person happens to be a great friend of mine and an interesting social studies teacher, Mrs. Bledsoe. No matter what she is doing, she shows a good deal of responsibility.

As a teacher, Mrs. Bledsoe stays true to her promises and work. She always accomplishes the difficult task of teaching lessons. On top of that, she adds a playful twist to things, allowing all of her students to have fun; and yet, at the same time, receive an education. Mrs. Bledsoe has a never-ending list of responsibilities, but she always gets them done and all with great detail.

As if it's not enough to have all the responsibilities of a teacher, Mrs. Bledsoe carries all the responsibilities and burdens of a dear friend to me and many others. I think of her like a sister. Whenever I need to discuss some problems I've been having at home, she is always there with advice. She doesn't have to give me the time of day after class, but she does. I can always rely on her to be there for me, which is more than I can say for my peers.

On top of all of Mrs. Bledsoe's growing responsibilities that she takes on each day, she is incredibly organized. Even though her desk is a mess, she has everything else in perfect order. It is a rare occasion to have her misplace something, even though she would say this is an exaggeration. All graded papers are handed back to us within a week; whereas, in any other class it will take up to five weeks to get your papers back. If we do not understand how we got a question wrong, Mrs. Bledsoe will take the time out to completely explain her way of getting the correct answer. Other teachers just hand you back your papers and have you put them in your folder.

Responsibility is a very hard thing to keep track of; trust me, I've tried. However, if you have had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Bledsoe, then you know as well as I do that she makes responsibility seem extremely easy. It is very easy to let go of a promise. To carry as many responsibilities as she does, I think would be a burden. But she always keeps her head up high and sets an exquisite example for her students in everything.

Brittany Gardner

Third Place, Grade 8



Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

When I hear the word “responsible” I always think of my older brother Reid. Being responsible is categorized by being a good family member, good citizen, good teacher, and most of all a good person. To me, my brother exceeds the standards for being responsible.

I can’t think of a specific event that proves my brother is responsible because he shows it everyday in everything he does. He is able to plan ahead for his future. Reid had a summer job and responsibly saved his money for college and a trip he hoped to take. In the fall, when he decided to visit a friend in Germany, he was able to purchase the plane ticket with his savings. My brother had been responsible enough to save the money for something he would really enjoy as well as benefit from the experience. Reid was able to stay with his friend’s family but was still on his own in a foreign country. He had to deal with the language barrier as well as different customs, culture, and currency. I admire his courage to take this trip and feel it was a big responsibility.

Reid has always been a great teacher, citizen, person and most importantly to me, a good brother. One of his greatest accomplishments came in the spring of last year when he was valedictorian of his high school class. He was involved in many extracurricular activities and was still able to maintain outstanding grades. In addition to school, he was actively involved in our church. He learned how to prioritize his work and fulfill his responsibilities. I have learned a great deal from him.

As long as I can remember, my brother has inspired me to try and be a better and more responsible person. There have been times when I had questions or needed help with schoolwork, and I have always known I could count on my brother for help. He is not perfect, but in my eyes I respect him very much for who he is.

Reid is someone you can always count on. His humble mannerisms show that actions speak louder than words. Responsibility is a very important characteristic in a great person, and I believe my brother is a great person. Being responsible is not always the most fun or easy way out, but in the long run you will always succeed.

Dana Doughnten

First Place, Grade 9

How many responsible people do you know? Unfortunately, there are not as many responsible people in the world today as there should be. So, naturally, we value the people who are. One person I know who is responsible is my best friend. We’ve been a dynamic duo all our lives and it would make sense to say that I know her as well as I know myself . . . and then some (we’re so identical that we might as well be twins). Not only do I know her personality extremely well, but I know all her good points too. She’s smart, does good in school, draws well, plays the guitar and plays softball, sings, and she’s very creative and funny. To top it all off, she respects herself and gets along with everyone (even people she doesn’t like)!

I remember one time when we were assigned a science project on an element of our choice. My best friend and I were partners, and the project was due a few days after our holiday break so we didn't have much time. I'm usually very responsible, but with all the craziness of the holidays I didn't have time to work on the report. On the day of our return to school I was hoping against hope that she had done at least a *little* bit of work on it. Come to find out, she had done the whole thing (just in case I didn't) and saved our grade. You can always rely on her, and she never just assumes that someone else is going to take care of everything for her.

You don't even need to know her personally to see how she demonstrates responsibility. She has this amazing way of juggling her schoolwork and tasks at home, and staying calm about it in the process. She always completes her homework and class work on time (or even before it's due), she does her best to help out at home, and whenever something is asked of her she always does it. When she makes a promise to someone, they trust her because she always does what she says she's going to do. You can talk to her about *anything* and she'll always listen and try to give advice, especially if it's asked for. Even during class, she helps people with their work. You should see her in math class; she's constantly helping other students with their work and answering questions. The teacher even recommends her to the other kids when they need assistance. But as always, no one is perfect, and neither is she. She makes mistakes and learns from them.

That brings me to my last point. Not only is she responsible, but it's her responsibility that makes her such a good teacher. From her I have, without realizing it, learned to control my emotions even more and to remember my mistakes so that I won't make the same ones again. I've also learned to tolerate others and their problems and to recognize my own and try to fix them.

I think it's clear, and I'm sure you'll agree, that my best friend is one of the most responsible people that you'll ever meet. I know that I'm not the only person that she's had an affect on, and that she has and will influence many others—in the past *and* in the future. Hopefully, through her responsibility, and others' as well, we can make our society, and the world a better place.

Casey Stanhope
Second Place, Grade 9

To me, responsibility means doing what needs to be done. It means doing what is right as opposed to doing what is wrong. If you are responsible you are where you need to be on time and prepared to do what needs to be done. A responsible person takes care of his/her obligations.

When I hear the word "responsibility," I try to think about someone who has all of the above traits and one person usually comes to mind. My cousin, Katisha, also known as "Sissy" is one of the most responsible people I know. She gets up early in the morning five days out of

the week. She drives all the way from Smyrna to Wesley College in Dover. When she gets out of school she goes home and immediately gets dressed for work. Then she has to drive back down to Dover to work. Usually she gets off work at about eleven o'clock at night, and then she completes her homework.

When she's not busy with school or work she's helping out around the house. She cleans up and even cooks when she doesn't have to work, when her mom doesn't have to work, and when her mom doesn't feel like it. Also, since "Sissy" lives in an apartment that is occupied by only her and her mother, she helps pay rent and other bills.

But even with all of those things on her mind, she still manages to make time for family and friends. Sometimes we go to the movies or we'll go to the park and play basketball. Or we might just hang out inside. Either way, it's good, quality time.

She always keeps her word too. When she said she would pick me up from practice and I walked out of the school at 5:30 p.m., she was right there in the parking lot waiting on me. When she said she was going to support me at my game and I went to the line to shoot my first free throw, I looked in the stands and she was right there cheering me on. That's one thing about her—she never breaks a promise, no matter how much work she has.

She has so many things to do that her house is a thirty-second walk from mine and I hardly ever see her. Somehow, she manages to get it all done.

Lionel Baynard

Third Place, Grade 9

As my feet shuffle along the floor, my eyes peer into a passing room. A young teacher sits in front of the class with a smile on her face and bright eyes. The students surrounding her are laughing along with her. The lesson plan on the board gleams empty, and the students' minds are muddled with the lack of work and fun. My mind begins to ask itself, "*Aren't teachers supposed to teach?*" Nevertheless, I shrug my shoulders and continue on.

My eyes now glance into a room that is silent, except for one voice. Her voice carries out into the hallway, and I hear the words are full of knowledge and confidence. My eyes seem to deceive me, but it is really as it seems. This teacher is teaching . . . without concern of how many groans the class gives. My heart fills with a deep respect, and I linger here for a moment to watch.

Margie Schuman expects a lot from her unwilling students, yet in return she gets a lot. Her teaching strategy is "be all you can be" and she urges this of her pupils. When society deals a blow to her colleagues, she continues to do the responsible thing and be the adult in an archaic world. This woman stays on task and never sits idly chatting with children. She takes charge of her life, knowing it is her responsibility to stay active and healthy. Margie knows what time does to a body, and steps into the challenge of a physical workout. Whether it is for sport, in her

vigorous tennis rounds, or on a lighter note of exercising, she gains a perfect ten in the responsibility of her own life.

I have tremendous respect for her, and she has encouraged me to strive for more in my life. If this doesn't count for something, then I have no idea what does! I have learned to do more than expected, and to take responsibility for my work and my life. After all, who else can lead our life but us? Through her guidance I now understand not to cave into peer pressure, and to stay responsible for my life and my actions.

So I must end my break, and continue on . . . both literally and deeply, as this hallway represents my long road in life, my path that I choose. Ms. Schuman taught me this, but I also chose to pause enough to see a last glimpse of something that continues to drive me on. A smile slowly appears on my face as I think to myself briefly. I know inside that she is teaching all those students something much more valuable in life than just history. She is teaching them responsibility

Laura Morgan

First Place, Grade 11

Pick a word. Any word will do. I bet you can think of a thousand different meanings for that word, and a thousand people who you can associate with it. Now think of this word: responsibility. When I thought of this word, I came up with a thousand different meanings for it, but one person stood out in my mind that demonstrated responsibility to the best of his ability. Responsibility can be practiced through being a good citizen, worker, friend, husband, and in my case, father. My father, Gary Lamborn, is one the most responsible people in my life.

One of the ways my dad shows his responsibility is by being a hard worker. He is always busy keeping a balance of his job and work on the farm, and he does a great job. His career often requires him to spend time outside of the office taking trips, taking phone calls at home, and doing extra work, to name a few. He is very dedicated to his job and knows what he has to do to be successful at it. My dad's responsibility enables him to fulfill his work obligations as expected.

Another way Dad shows his responsibility is by being a loyal citizen. He sees it is as his responsibility to help our community in any way that he can. In the dead of winter when the snow starts falling, one of the first signs of life you'll see on my road is my dad walking outside to start up the tractor and clear people's lanes for them. He never asks for anything in return, he just does it to fulfill what he sees as his duty. Another way he demonstrates being a responsible citizen is by voting, and taking part in other community legal issues.

A final way that my father shows his responsibility is by being a loving family member. Often that means turning other people's responsibilities into his own. When my sister had a flat tire and needed help, whom did she call? When my other sister needed someone to take her to the airport at four in the morning, whom did she ask? When my brother needed someone to help him look for a house, to whom did he go? When I first got my license and needed an adult to take me driving, who was there to help me? Dad—he does so much for other people and works so hard for my family, but always retains his modesty and refuses anything in return.

In conclusion, I think it's easy to see how my father, Gary Lamborn, practices responsibility in his life. When it comes to fulfilling commitments with his family, community, and workers, Dad is first-rate. His dependability has influenced me to become a better person.

Julie Lamborn

Second Place, Grade 11

“Tweet! Tweet!” The whistle blows at the beginning of practice on the first day of triple sessions. It was easy for me to awaken and be at practice early only because I'm hoping to someday make football my life. Coach Lloyd is at practice early because it is his responsibility as a coach. I chose Coach Lloyd as my most responsible person because, to me, he is thorough in everything that he does. He's also my choice because a coach in a student-athlete's life is a major influence. Most of what I know about Coach Lloyd is football related. I do catch him on occasions where we talk about current events or about life.

Coach Lloyd is always at practice. He would probably miss a family gathering or free time for time in a football-related atmosphere. People could say that it's just great love for the game, and he does love the game; that's why I think that plays a big part of his being a responsible coach and being true to his players. On the practice field and in the classroom he's a very thorough instructor who does everything to the fullest. When you leave practice or the classroom you know that he has done his best to try to help you understand whatever it is that he's preaching. There is a sense of responsibility when he's teaching that lets you know that he is sincere about his occupation.

Coach Lloyd has influenced me to be a loyal and responsible individual. I see Coach Lloyd and I see a successful grown-up who has already established so much in his life. He owes a big part to being responsible. Someone who hasn't expressed responsibility can still be a really fun person to be around and can be a good friend, but will have his faults due to the lack of being responsible. Responsibility means being loyal and true to things that are meaningful in life. For someone to have a lot of things going for them, it can be a big responsibility to maintain a high status in all the different areas in life. Also a quality of being responsible is being honest. Anyone can make a mistake but not everyone can admit to making a mistake. A lot of being responsible is self-confidence and having a strong self-image. Coach Lloyd's self-image is as good as it gets. His self-confidence is always strong and he realizes that everyone makes mistakes. That gives him the advantage in life in having the power to overcome any personal barrier. In closing I can say that there are a lot of things, to me, that mean being responsible and Coach Lloyd qualifies.

Matt Hessestine

Third Place, Grade 11

I am going to be perfectly honest. I am not the most responsible person in the world; in fact, I know I would lose my head if it wasn't attached. This has always been the one thing in my life on which I have been desperately trying to work. If I'm not losing my homework, I am losing my glasses. If I am not forgetting to go to the bank, I am forgetting about my eye doctor's appointment. It is a vicious cycle; however there is one definite solution that I have come upon that will change my irresponsible ways forever. This solution is Eva Keller.

Eva Keller is not only the solution to my irresponsibility, she also happens to be my girlfriend. As much as I hate to admit this, she is the most responsible, mature, and well-rounded person I have ever met in my entire life. She has an extremely busy life. She is involved with so many organizations and sports, yet she still finds time for friends and even me. Not only does she balance her life out, she perfects each and every thing she does. This magnificent girl is only a junior at Dover High School, yet seemingly resembles a junior in college. She is in all honors, as well as AP classes, and somehow manages a cumulative grade point average of 102. "How is this possible," I think to myself?

Eva is the president of her class. She dedicates many hours of the week planning and perfecting events, as well as organizing every class meeting. She is in student council, which I know from experience can be very nerve racking and very time consuming. These tasks are those which not just any student can perform. These tasks are taken up by people who have a true passion for helping and bettering the lives of other people.

When I think of fitness and performance, Eva Keller is the first name that comes to mind. She is simply incredible. She is extremely fit. She stays in top shape year round for her passion of field hockey. Eva is no ordinary field hockey player. She is one of the top in the state. Just this fall she was in California playing in a national field hockey tournament. Not only did she play in this tournament, but her team also won. That is incredible!

I am not writing this paper because I wish to flatter my girlfriend. I simply want to express my admiration for her. She is the most wonderful person I have ever met. She is involved in anything I can imagine and more. She balances her life out perfectly. She knows what she wants, and personally I don't know of anyone who will be more successful in life than her. She is inspiration. I admire her so much. If she is not the most responsible and well-rounded person I know, then I don't know who is.

Keith Fletcher

First Place, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTION

Students

SMYRNA KINDERGARTEN CENTER

Jordan Keller
Steven Houston

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<i>Emily Hodgeman</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Taylor Tucker</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Sierra Watkins</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Autumn Birney</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Monét Henry</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>Lauren Gaston</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>
<i>Grace Ruiz-Cooper</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>
<i>Timothy Draine</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>
<i>Rebeka Kubik</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>
<i>Nicholas Marthaler</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Amy Cadmus</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Jennifer Caudill</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Arizona Dyer</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Jordon Ramsey</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Caleb Cannon</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Rachel Cote</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Dorothy 'Shae' Ford</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Hannah Gaston</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>Rebecca 'Taylor' Pugh</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

<i>Tosha Heath</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>
<i>William Pearce</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>
<i>Thomas Smith</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>
<i>Megan Ribolla</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
<i>John Chase</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

<i>Tyler Torres</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Destiny LaBerge</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Jessica Carl</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Juliet Wilson</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Paige Green</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>
<i>Jessica Stover</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<i>Christina Conoly</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<i>Bobbie Smith</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<i>Rebecca Adair</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<i>Heyley Fletcher</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

<i>Kaitlyn Krol</i>	<i>Grade 9</i>
<i>Lindsey Melvin</i>	<i>Grade 9</i>
<i>Matt Boyles</i>	<i>Grade 9</i>
<i>Josh Hall</i>	<i>Grade 9</i>
<i>Bill Gordon</i>	<i>Grade 10</i>
<i>Krystal Longfellow</i>	<i>Grade 10</i>
<i>David Everhart</i>	<i>Grade 10</i>
<i>Shaina Hunter</i>	<i>Grade 11</i>
<i>Tiffani Ross</i>	<i>Grade 11</i>
<i>Daniel Long</i>	<i>Grade 11</i>
<i>Josh Reed</i>	<i>Grade 12</i>
<i>Jami Gobao</i>	<i>Grade 12</i>
<i>Monil Patel</i>	<i>Grade 12</i>