



CITIZENSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

JUNE, 2020

Dear Student Honoree,

On behalf of the Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSAs (YCPTA) board, we are honored to congratulate you on receiving the enclosed award respectively.

Alexander Graham Bell said that "The only difference between success and failure is the ability to take action."

Your actions, hard work and good deeds were thoroughly noticed by your administrators, teachers, peers and this committee. We are proud that our district has student representatives like yourself, making an impact in our schools and in our community. Continue to be a role model and keep up the good work!

This year, all of us were impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Citizenship and Scholarship Awards Committee was unable to assemble in person as customarily at Saunders High School Auditorium, we wanted to ensure you were still recognized and honored for your accomplishments. We look forward to meeting you in the future and congratulating you in person.

More importantly, you are not alone and we want you to know that the Siragusa Family once again has generously supported the Siragusa Award. The YCPTA, along with district PTAs/PTSAs supported the other awards. We hope you enjoy this booklet, the certificates, and the small token from the aforementioned supporters. Stay safe and healthy. Have a successful future!

Best regards,

Citizenship and Scholarship Awards Committee

Awards Presentation

Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Citizenship Award
5th and 8th Graders

Patricia A. DiChiaro Memorial Award
8th Grade

Mabel Bell Scholarship Award
High School

Paul M. Mitchell Humanitarian Award
High School

Millie Yochman Special Recognition Award
High School

Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Citizenship Award
(Sponsored by the Siragusa Family)

Awarded to an outstanding Boy and Girl from the 5th Grade and the 8th Grade classes on a city-wide basis, who have demonstrated respect for authority and fellow students, attendance and punctuality, care of school property and outstanding contributions to the school and the community.

5th Grade Boys and Girls

SCHOOL 5

Girl: *Laila Darwish*

Laila is a hard-working 5th grade student. She has excellent attendance. She is helpful to students and teachers in School 5. Laila is a polite, respectful and friendly addition to our school community.

Boy: *Jayden Garcia Tlatelpa*

Jayden is a highly motivated and dedicated student. His hard work is reflected in his being an honor roll student. Outside of school, Jayden is involved with his church, St. Bartholomew, and playing soccer. He is an outstanding young man.

PATRICIA A. DICHIARO SCHOOL

Girl: *Yamilka Canaan*

Yamilka is optimistic, compassionate and kind to her peers. She takes the initiative, always tries her best, is a problem solver and rises to necessary challenges. Yamilka aspires to be a teacher when she grows up and truly loves learning. She actively participates in class, takes pride in her work and is willing to ask for help or try a new strategy. She frequently lends a hand to ensure the success of her peers. Yamilka enjoys soccer, volleyball, and softball. Yamilka embodies the Rosemarie Siragusa Award and the perfect candidate for this honor!

Boy: *Rory Hampton*

Rory is an eager and motivated student who performs well in all academic areas. He is a great role model to his peers who enjoys being challenged. Rory is kind, personable, and considerate of others. He is an outstanding classroom citizen who assists his peers. Rory was a top-three finisher in Yonkers district-wide February Sumdog math contest. Rory is a brown belt in karate and loves to draw things and showcase them on Roblox. Rory enjoys movies, swimming and has many family pets.

SCHOOL 9

Girl: *Guadalupe Herrera*

Guadalupe is an exemplary student, an excellent role model and a valuable member of the School 9 community. Guadalupe's academic achievement reflects her commitment to her schoolwork and eagerness to learn. She is a hard worker and an honor student who always strives for excellence. She is a dependable student who does not hesitate to help her peers when needed and she is well respected by the entire School 9 community.

Boy: *Matthew F. Canales*

Matthew has an incredibly bright future ahead of him. His determination to be the best at everything he does is second to none. He is hard-working, eager to learn, helps his fellow classmates and is an inspiration to us all. He has big plans for his future, such as becoming a senator, a scientist and an author. I believe if anyone can do it, it is Matthew.

THOMAS CORNELL ACADEMY

Girl: *Jaslyn Hernandez Pichardo*

Jaslyn came to our country as an ELL student in 3rd grade. With tenacity, she has excelled in all subject areas. Jaslyn is a respectful and friendly student who strives for excellence with her classwork and homework. She participates in afterschool and is currently taking piano lessons. She is an excellent candidate for this award.

Boy: *Jose Nunez-Rodney*

Jose is a very respectful and friendly student. He has a great sense of humor and gets along well with all of his peers. He participates often and contributes to discussions with great questions and comments. His absences are minimal and he arrives at school on time and ready to learn. He is always on task and puts forth great effort into his classwork and homework. Jose deserves this award.

SCHOOL 13

Girl: *Bharti Harnaraine*

Bharti is an exceptional student. Her artwork and creativity are exquisite for her age. She internalizes what she reads and is excited to learn more on her own time. She is an intelligent, motivated and compassionate young lady. She strives to achieve success in all academic areas. Bharti is an eager assistant to both teachers and classmates. Her ability to assist her classmates is both welcomed and to be commended. Bharti encompasses all the hallmarks of a Siragusa recipient, citizenship and academic excellence.

Boy: *Brandon Calixto*

Brandon is an intelligent, mature young man who exemplifies the crucial balance of academic excellence and humility. He volunteers to assist his peers and teachers. He perseveres through challenges and is a role model to his classmates. His respect for property and person reflects his citizenship. He is always seeking to better himself academically and strives to make our school community better. He is most deserving of the Siragusa award.

ROSEMARIE ANN SIRAGUSA SCHOOL

Girl: *Arislette Pena*

Arislette is an internationally-minded student in the Siragusa Global Academy. Arislette is a knowledgeable student who eagerly tries new things and confidently shares her beliefs and experiences. She is a principled young lady who displays honesty and fairness among her peers. Arislette is respectful towards authority figures as well as her fellow students. She readily accepts new responsibilities and often takes leadership roles within small cooperative groups. Arislette is an enthusiastic learner who exhibits an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and always strives to do her best.

Boy: *Micael Salvato*

Mickey is a hard-working and extremely respectful student with strong leadership skills. He is a team player, gives the best effort in all homework and classwork assignments. During instruction, Mickey is always focused and asks for clarification if needed. He is a reliable, helpful and trustworthy student and is making a positive impact in his class and his community. Mickey displays qualities of perseverance and dedication in extra-curricular activities playing for the Eastchester Blue. Mickey is a well-rounded kid who volunteers his time assisting the Yonkers Brave football team. It is apparent from Mickey's strong character and work ethic that he is on a path to do great things in life.

[PAIDEIA SCHOOL 15](#)

Girl: *Brianna McCallop*

Briana is a well-respected and well-liked member of her class. She always offers a smile and is willing to help at all times. She is respectful to her classmates and teachers; and is sensitive to the needs of all individuals throughout the building. Brianna is a kind, articulate, and diligent student. One who is more than deserving of this award.

Boy: *Emmet Keating*

Emmet is an outstanding young man who is well-deserving of this recognition. He is an intelligent, hard-working student who takes pride in all his endeavors. Emmet is a kind soul who demonstrates empathy. He is a big thinker who enjoys creative expression. In short, Emmet is a ray of sunshine making our school, and the world, a better place.

[SCHOOL 16](#)

Girl: *Camila Reboledo-Morillo*

Camila is a well-rounded, hard-working, respectful, responsible and charismatic 5th grade students. She is eager to learn; appreciates her learning environment and performs at the top of the class. She even wrote a book! Camila consistently works collaboratively with her peers. Camila's vocabulary is advanced and she only arrived in the United States in the summer of 2018. This is her first year in the Yonkers Public Schools. She is an avid reader and says that "ELA is her favorite subject." Camila worked diligently on an environmental science project and led a small group presentation focused on the Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch.

Boy: *Sergio Valencia Navarro*

Sergio entered 5th grade with a very positive attitude toward school, authority and staff. His positivity has followed him throughout the year. Every morning he says hello to the adults with a smile on his face. He is always respectful, and this comes naturally to Sergio. Sergio comes to school every day; is always well prepared and is a shining example of how a student should behave and treat others. His work is always neat and he treats school property with as much care as if it was his own. He wants to improve himself so he is always on task and very focused on his work.

[SCHOOL 17](#)

Girl: *Sarvia Arda*

Sarvia sets high standards for herself both academically and socially. She is a straight-A student and loves to assist teachers with any task. Sarvia would identify a struggling student and without hesitation, offer peer tutoring. Sarvia meets the criteria and deserves receiving The Rosemarie Siragusa Memorial Award.

Boy: *Victor Diomeda*

Victor is being awarded this special recognition for his outstanding efforts in the classroom and throughout the school. He is part of the safety patrol at School 17. Victor is a gentleman, respectful, caring, giving to his peers and humorous. He demonstrates the ability to find the good in others and stands up for what he wants. He shows concern about the well-being of his friends and family. Victor actively participates in sports outside of school. He does well in all academic areas. His strength is Mathematics, he grasps concepts quickly and easily. He enjoys reading, telling jokes and sharing with his classmates.

SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Girl: *Alisson Silva*

Alisson is an exemplar student and an excellent role model for all of her peers. Her selfless acts in the school community and compassionate nature are qualities that we only hope all of our students will cultivate. A person of resilient perseverance and superiority, she takes pride in working hard for the greater good of the school community. Alisson's strong work ethics, curiosity, and diligence toward all of her studies reflect her commitment to be a lifelong learner, and emphasize the value she places on education. This has enabled her to achieve above grade level performance in all subject areas.

Boy: *Alexander Ruiz*

A person of excellent character, morals, and values, Alexander demonstrates compassion and kindness throughout the school community and is loved by all teachers and peers. Alexander's academic achievements reflect his commitment to his schoolwork and eagerness to learn. Alexander's values and kindhearted nature are qualities educators only hope to instill in all of our students. His diligence in his studies and natural leadership skills exceed expectations, making him a terrific role model for his peers in and outside the classroom. Alexander's proactive approach and exemplary efforts in all subject areas are exemplified in his academic excellence and achievements.

EUGENIO MARIA DE HOSTOS MICROSOCIETY SCHOOL

Girl: *Adrianna Hernandez*

Adrianna is an excellent student who excels in and out of the classroom. She is a respectful, hard-working, and friendly young lady. In her free time, Adrianna takes piano lessons. She also assists Pre-Kindergarteners during her recess time twice a week. Adrianna has demonstrated leadership skills through her involvement in the Hostos MicroSociety program. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer at the Reading Agency and aspires to be an animator when she grows up. It is a pleasure to teach such a well-rounded student!

Boy: *Jose Sanchez Rosa*

Jose is an excellent student who comes to school ready to do his best each day. He is a hard-working, reliable and respectful student. In his free time, Jose enjoys soccer as well as playing video games. He is always willing to assist others and is a pleasure to have in class.

SCHOOL 21

Girl: *Nuria Tomas Pereira*

Nuria has been selected for the Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Memorial Award. She has tremendous respect for authority and respects all of her fellow students. Nuria is first to lend a hand to someone in need. She is first for arrival and her attendance record is stellar. Nuria seems to always have a smile on her face and gives forth her best effort always. Nuria maintains the highest grades and contributes to all school programs. She is a terrific student, a very nice young lady and is also involved with the martial arts program. Therefore, I feel she is deserving of the award.

Boy: *Ajan Ruhani*

Ajan shows constant respect for authority in all that he undertakes. He treats everyone the way that you would like to be treated. Ajan is mature beyond his years, always available and willing to assist another student if the need arises. Each day he takes care of the school's property as if it was his own. Ajan takes school seriously and attendance and punctuality are top-notch. He is responsible for a younger sibling and he takes that very seriously. Ajan has shown the ability to work without direct supervision and is a true leader in our class. He comes to school prepared to do his best and seems to grow academically each day.

SCHOOL 22

Girl: *Albarka Ouro-Agouda*

Albarka embodies the spirit of School 22. She is an exemplary member of our royal family, respects others, herself, and prioritizes learning. Albarka is an honor roll student. In addition, she is a safety patrol officer, which means she gives guidance and support to the youngest members of our School 22 family. She is exceedingly polite, consistently responsible, and a role model for children and adults alike. It is a pleasure to teach Albarka, but a greater pleasure just to know her!

Boy: *Szion Briene Bendana*

Szion is a bright and attentive student. He is an avid reader and gets along well with others. His academic focus is impressive as he uses every minute of the day to absorb as much knowledge as he can. He is curious and always looking to stretch his thinking. He loves his family and was excited as he waited for the birth of his baby brother. At the top of Szion's assignment was the word MOM displayed proudly. Szion is a good helper and is eager to help with any task in the classroom. He has excellent organizational skills and tackles tasks in an efficient and organized way. I am proud to have been part of his educational career.

SCHOOL 23

Girl: *Sharena Bratcher*

Sharena is an exemplary student. She excels in math and is outstanding in ELA. She is always punctual and rarely misses class. She is courteous to all students and adults and is extremely helpful. Sharena Bratcher is a joy in all ways in our classroom.

Boy: *Ryan Freckleton*

Ryan is a very respectful and hard-working student. He is an active learner throughout the school day and truly enjoys being in school. Ryan has never missed an assignment and is always working efficiently during instruction. He is on grade level in all academic areas. He uses his time wisely, is well prepared and punctual. His attendance is outstanding. Ryan displays good citizenship, respects his peers and their property, follows school rules and demonstrates good character by being honest and dependable. Ryan is a leader who has a good grasp of how important education is for his future.

PAIDEIA SCHOOL 24

Girl: *Brianna Tovar*

Brianna comes to school every day with a smile on her face, that smile never leaves. She is polite and helpful to everyone. During recess, she gives up her time to read to students in kindergarten. She is a great citizen and well deserving of this award.

Boy: *Steven Acevedo*

Steven is respectful, intelligent, and an all-around great kid. He is at school every day, on time, ready to learn. Steven is always willing to help his fellow classmates. He enjoys helping others with math. Steven is a member of Paideia 24's Book Club. He reads to first graders during his recess. It has been a pleasure getting to know Steven. He is deserving of this award.

MUSEUM SCHOOL 25

Girl: *Salimeh Darwish*

Salimeh is the kind of student that any teacher would love to have in their class. Salimeh has excellent attendance, which has enabled her to build skills and make progress. Salimeh is a role model for other students in terms of how she relates to peers and adults in and out of the classroom. She works cooperatively with peers and when she sees others struggling, she reaches out to offer help. Salimeh takes pride in her school and is considerate of school property. She always takes the initiative to take care of her classroom.

Boy: *Quincy Simmons*

Quincy is an outstanding student who loves to learn. He respects all school rules and would go above and beyond to help students in need. Quincy loves to read. He works really hard in school. He challenges himself. He loves to write and has a great talent for it. He is a major part of our Newspaper Team.

CASIMIR PULASKI SCHOOL

Girl: *Gillian Walsh*

Gillian is an outstanding role model who is respectful, patient, and committed to learning. She is a strong communicator and articulates concepts and original ideas with clarity, creativity and confidence via both written and digital communications. Gillian always shows a concern for the well-being of her diverse classmates and is admired by all. Aware of her own strengths and limitations, Gillian effectively directs her academic progress. She consistently exhibits an enthusiasm for new ideas, concepts and strategies. We are proud of Gillian as she an ideal candidate for the Rosemarie Siragusa Memorial Student Award.

Boy: *Christian Chilelli*

Christian is brave and articulate in defending his beliefs. He is respectful, cooperative and harnesses his abilities in the completion of his tasks. Christian works as an active participant in groups. He exhibits a sense of personal commitment to helping his classmates and expresses ideas confidently in a variety of modes of communication. Christian respects the values of his peers and is open to their points of view. He exudes confidence and is generous in sharing with others. Christian is appreciative of his surroundings. Christian approaches unfamiliar situations with courage and forethought.

[MONTESSORI SCHOOL 27](#)

Girl: *Jireh Castro*

Jireh is an exemplary and well-rounded student loved by both her teachers and peers. Not only is she a hard worker and a model student, she extends her love of learning to her peers by tutoring them and encouraging them to challenge themselves. She is a respectful and exuberant girl, who approaches all tasks and obstacles with a smile and a positive attitude. Jireh's astute and altruistic nature makes her an ideal student to receive the prestigious Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Award.

Boy: *Caleb Ofosu-Asomani*

Caleb brings positive energy to our classroom and starts each day with a smile that lights up our room! His calming demeanor makes Caleb approachable and easy to get along with. He truly enjoys learning and always takes pride in his accomplishments. Caleb does not hesitate to lend a helping hand to his peers or provide them with support on assignments. Caleb is the true definition of a gentleman with adults and his peers. It is an honor to nominate Caleb for the distinguished Rosemarie Ann Siragusa award.

[KAHLIL GIBRAN SCHOOL](#)

Girl: *Jayden Gilsenan*

Jayden is an active member of the Gibran family since Pre-K. She has excelled in all grades. In fourth grade, she was inducted into the Elementary National Honor Society. She enjoys math and believes it will help her in her career. She hopes to foster dogs that need homes at some point in her life. She has participated in book and food drives for the NEHS at school and also helped with the Gibran Holiday Food Drive. She is a brown belt in karate and is on the NY Rangers Gaelic football team. She likes to spend time with family, playing outside, riding her bike or taking her dog, Coco, for walks.

Boy: *Liam Cassidy*

Liam has been an active member of the Gibran family since Kindergarten. He has excelled in all grades. In fourth grade, he was inducted into the Elementary National Honor Society. He enjoys recess because he can have a break from the school day and relax with his friends. Liam enjoys math because he enjoys working with numbers. He has participated in book and food drives for the NEHS at school and also helped with the Gibran Holiday Food Drive. He plays the accordion and is on a team for both baseball and soccer. He also enjoys playing these sports with his friends and spending time with family.

[WESTCHESTER HILLS SCHOOL 29](#)

Girl: *Kayla Travieso*

Kayla is a student in fifth-grade at Westchester Hills School 29. She is a wonderful student and classmate. She is a beautiful young girl inside and out. Kayla is very serious, hard-working, determined, and puts her full effort into all she does. She is very bright, creative, and excels in all subjects. She is kind and always willing to help her peers. She is an exceptional student, a positive role model for her classmates, and a pleasure to teach.

Boy: *Jeronim Pergjokaj*

Jeronim is a great role model and sets a positive example for students in our school community. He is responsible with his classwork and homework assignments. He is eager to offer a helping hand to others when needed. If any student needs help in cooperative group, Jeronim does not hesitate to provide help. He is kind, respectful, and patient towards others. Jeronim has excellent attendance. He enters the classroom with a great smile and a positive attitude and is ready and eager to face all academic challenges.

SCHOOL 30

Girl: *Brooke Shields*

Brooke is an example of a well-rounded student. She excels both scholastically as well as socially. She is always there to lend a helping hand to a friend that needs help. Brooke is extremely respectful to administrators, teachers, adults and to her classmates. She is always polite and uses good manners. She is an admired role model to her peers both in her academics as well as citizenship.

Boy: *Arne Boro*

Arne is a sweet and intelligent student. He is always striving to build upon his knowledge. He sets high standards for himself and takes pride in his accomplishments. Arne is also a self-disciplined person inside and outside of school. He has achieved great success with his martial arts training and competitions. Arne is very deserving of this award and will accomplish great success in the future.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL 31

Girl: *Leviya Thomas*

Leviya is an excellent student who is a good citizen. She always strives to do her best in and out of the classroom. She is a responsible and respectful student who stands up for others in a way that is honorable. Leviya is a peer tutor for the 4th graders in the classroom and is an extremely patient mentor. Leviya even asked if she could tutor other classmates during distance learning. She is truly deserving of this award.

Boy: *Aithor Ledesma*

Aithor is a stellar student with a strong moral compass. He is not afraid to stand up for what is right even if it is not popular among his peers. He is always a gentleman willing to lend a helping hand. He serves as an in-house bus monitor to our Pre-K/K students and he often stays after school helping his teacher set up the classroom for the next day. Aithor is a worthy candidate for this year's Siragusa award.

FAMILY SCHOOL 32

Girl: *Khloe Vargas*

Khloe is an exceptional student who exemplifies hard work and determination. Khloe goes above and beyond to make sure that her work is done well and with pride. Never one to give up, when faced with new challenges she takes her time and analyzes the situation at hand. She is not only a great student, but she is also a very kind, courageous and considerate friend and classmate. Khloe takes her time to help out her friends who are in need. Continue to make us proud, Khloe! We are very excited to see what your future holds.

Boy: *Andy Tran*

Andy is a Principal's List student who always enjoys being academically challenged. He is hard-working, respectful, and kind to all. Andy is a role model to his classmates. He always helps others when they ask. Andy gets along with everyone and never hesitates to do the right thing. He is always prepared for the next task and never complains. His leadership qualities make him the perfect candidate for this award.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ACADEMY

Girl: *Cindy Bello*

Cindy is a hard-working and respectful student. Each day she comes to school ready to learn with a positive attitude. Her leadership skills make her well liked by her peers, as well as building staff. Cindy is a role-model for all 5th graders.

Boy: *Celso Valenzuela Silva*

Celso is a polite student who is always willing to help and support his classmates. As a student who takes pride in his academics, his work is always complete.

CROSS HILL ACADEMY

Girl: *Shayla Cordero*

Shayla is a respectful student towards teachers, students, school, classroom and instructional time. Shayla has excellent attendance and is not only punctual in arriving to school, but also with her classwork and homework assignments, as well. She strives to do her best, each day and takes her own learning goals seriously. She goes beyond general expectations, participates in class by taking advantage of various learning opportunities. Shayla is an inspiration to those around her and an excellent role model for her classmates.

Boy: *Matthew Gelin*

Matthew is a conscientious, respectful student who deserves this award. Matthew consistently puts forth his best effort in classwork and homework assignments. He manages his time well and takes pride in his work. He is always punctual and eager to learn with an exemplary attendance record. Matthew shows initiative and exhibits leadership skills in cooperative group assignments and projects. He is both admired and respected by his classmates and is a fantastic role model. He encourages and motivates students throughout the school day including music, art and physical education classes. All of Matthew's prior teachers were impressed by his diligence and work ethic.

CESAR E. CHÁVEZ SCHOOL

Girl: *Miley Reyes*

Miley is a very hard worker. She is responsible and is part of safety at Cesar Chávez. Miley is always kind and does her homework with care, as well as motivation.

Boy: *Jeffrey Sanchez*

Jeffrey is a bright, hard-working, dedicated student. He helps all students and staff; and brightens a room with his smile. Jeffrey is a role model and Cesar Chávez is proud and honored to have Jeffrey as a student.

ENRICO FERMI SCHOOL

Girl: *Maria Sanchez*

Maria is cooperative, kind, honest and self-confident. She is always in school, on time and has shown great progress socially and academically. Her strength is seeing the good in others and building them up. She is one of the most compassionate 5th graders we have had the pleasure to teach.

Boy: *Da'Von Barnes*

Da'Von is an exemplar student who takes pride in his academic progress and social ability to be a leader. He is extremely respectful to peers and will always lend a hand. Da'Von is always smiling and eager to learn. He is enthusiastic and always participating in school activities.

PEARLS HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

Girl: *Denissa Dedushaj*

Denissa is an exceptional young lady. She is attentive in class, highly motivated to succeed, and consistently prepared. She is dependable, trustworthy, and above all things courteous. In this day and age of seemingly endless discord and divisiveness, it's refreshing to know that children like Denissa, and all the other honorees here, will soon be going out into the world to make it a better place.

Boy: *Jacob Vadakkan*

Jacob is a very helpful, studious and dependable young man. He is always ready and able to contribute to helping maintain the classroom. Jacob is a good student and is always looking to improve his studies and help others. He is well prepared and liked by his peers. Outside of school, Jacob enjoys playing soccer and basketball. He is well-deserving of this award and should be proud of all his hard work.

ROBERT C. DODSON SCHOOL

Girl: *Kaitlyn Gonzalez*

Kaitlyn is a respectful and responsible young lady. She is a conscientious student and is always willing to help others. Her positive attitude shines through in all that she does. She exhibits leadership qualities and her classmates look up to her. Her smile lights up the darkest of rooms.

Boy: *Christopher Osejo*

Christopher is a diligent student who always aspires to be his best. His kindness shines through his actions and thoughts. He is respectful of all and always works beyond his potential. He is a self-motivated young man who possesses self-control and maturity which makes him a leader in his class. He is an inspiration to our entire school community.

WILLIAM BOYCE THOMPSON SCHOOL

Girl: *Ariel Melendez*

Ariel is a dedicated student who focuses on doing her best in class. She enjoys learning new and interesting things. She is constantly searching for different ways to improve her overall academic performance (both inside and outside of the school environment). She is willing to take risks in order to better understand what is being presented to within the classroom. Helping others is part of Ariel's nature. She is always volunteering her time. She tutors her fellow classmates and participates in community service within the school. Ariel embodies the true essence of a model student-one who sees the good in everything and everyone.

Boy: *Tyler Kelly*

Tyler impressed his teacher with his ability to show compassion towards others both in and out of the classroom. Tyler's personal strengths are as impressive as his academic accomplishments. Although he's the perfect person to lead a group project, he also demonstrates the ability to let others take the lead. Tyler always has an insightful thought or idea to add to class/group discussions. His cheerful nature and openness help make him popular among his peers. Tyler is the perfect type of engaging, kind and curious student that helps make our classroom a lively environment and safe place to take intellectual risks.

YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Girl: *Sarah Mohamed*

Sarah is an enthusiastic learner who uses high-level thinking strategies to apply learned skills to new situations. She has a natural sense of order and organization that fosters an understanding of all her subject areas. She is always precise and thorough with additional good qualities and imagination. She is an outgoing and responsible student who conducts herself with maturity. Sarah's enthusiasm and interests are assets to our class.

Boy: *Max Sanchez*

Max shows persistent effort and determination. He is a confident member of the class and contributes well in lessons. He works very hard and always gives his best effort in all areas of the curriculum. He has produced work to be extremely proud of. He has the maturity to be successful in the future. It is a real pleasure to work with such a conscientious, well-mannered child. Keep up the good work!

8th Grade Boys and Girls

****District-Wide winners**

SCHOOL 5

Girl: *Jenna Wong*

Jenna is a determined person always pushing to do the best she can. She is a Principal's List student and always tries to do her best on homework and projects. She is part of the softball and soccer teams and an altar server at her church. She will assist her classmates with classwork and projects. She is an asset to the school community.

Boy: *Justin Crews*

Justin is a modest, mild-mannered, and reliable young man. He is passionate and responsible with his work, fully committing to projects and giving it his all. He works well with others encouraging them to succeed together as a team. Justin is a pleasure to be around and is deserving of this award.

PATRICIA A. DICHIARO SCHOOL

Girl: *Hannah Fuller*

Hannah is a student of outstanding character. She is a conscientious and hard-working student. She always comes to school prepared and eager to participate in each class. Hannah is well-liked by peers and adults. She is an active member of the student government. Hannah is an asset to the DiChiaro and the Yonkers community.

Boy: *Jack O'Malley*

Jack is an outstanding citizen of the DiChiaro community. He is a conscientious, hard-working student who gives 100% effort in everything. Jack is helpful and respectful to his peers and adults. He is an asset to the DiChiaro and the Yonkers community. Jack provides Community Service by cleaning streets, clearing snow for neighbors, and helping neighbors when they are working outside. Jack plays baseball, golf, and lacrosse. He enjoys outdoor activities such as mountain biking, dirt biking, ATVs, and camping. Jack also enjoys spending time with his family. He aspires to be as successful in his endeavors as his brother.

SCHOOL 13

Girl: *Keelyn Esteban*

Keelyn is a sweet girl with a goal-oriented mentality. She is serious about her studies and loves contributing to her school community. She is friendly, has a positive attitude, is not afraid to be herself and makes sure everyone in the school community feels welcomed. She has a bright future ahead of her.

Boy: *Mathew Perez*

Mathew is a mature, intellectual and well-rounded student who is quick to understand the classroom material and manages to make classroom discussions rich in information. He presents his work and classroom discussion in a sophisticated and scholarly demeanor. He is the Student Government President. Mathew has shown leadership by carrying on multiple roles and standing apart as a strong role model by those who surround him. He is a great, young adult with a bright future ahead of him. His volunteer work includes food drives and clothing donations. He enjoys and plays a variety of sports, as well as, the piano.

PAIDEIA SCHOOL 15

Girl: *Zara Haq*

Zara has regularly contributed to the school community. She helps backstage for all school plays, is part of the safety patrol. She is responsible and punctual. She is often seen helping her peers with their schoolwork. She has volunteered at the Andrus Early Learning Center, her church, a part of an eye camp and sold red noses on red nose day. She was nominated by her classmates as most dependable.

Boy: *Ryan Newman*

Ryan is very caring, kind, and loves to be around friends. He plays and coaches younger kids in baseball, basketball and football. He is a very active student who is eager to learn and helping others to learn. He participated in the school play, the documentary club and the Gilder Lehman Institute of American History Saturday Academy. He had received certificates of appreciation from the Smile Train Organization and the Holocaust and Human Rights Education. He serves in the church as an altar server and enjoys spending time with his family, such as playing a long game of Monopoly or building forts.

SCHOOL 16

Girl: *Priya Chacko*

Priya has been an outstanding student all of her years at School 16. She is remarkable in both her kindness and her intelligence. We are proud to have such a community-oriented student. She is well behaved and always willing to go above and beyond what is asked of her. She consistently earns top grades on even the most difficult of things. Her work ethic is impressive, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Boy: *David Mejia*

David is one of the nicest, well-rounded, young gentlemen in School 16's 8th grade-class. He is very hard-working, intelligent, and respectful to his teachers and peers. David consistently maintains good grades while also attending enrichment programs and playing sports. He has received many awards. David is always willing to lend a hand when asked, and he is very helpful when working with younger students. He is involved in his church's education program where he helps the younger students. He enjoys playing soccer and basketball.

SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Girl: *Melanie Pascal Ortiz*

Melanie entered our school community at the beginning of last year, and from the start, she embodied quiet excellence. She is always determined not only to complete difficult tasks, but to excel in doing so. She is an avid reader and low-key hilarious. For those lucky enough to count her among their friends, she is a wonderful presence in their lives.

Boy: *Arkenny Grullon*

Arkenny loves everything about school. He has been Student of the Month and achieved Honor Roll. He has faced his fair share of struggles. Where most students would give into their frustration, Arkenny only sees a goal that he is determined to reach. It is this determination, perseverance, and resiliency that makes Arkenny a role model in school. He is comfortable in leadership roles and is the class representative for the student council. He is always the first one to volunteer to help a classmate or adult. His behavior is always exemplary and when given a task or assignment, Arkenny will always go above and beyond expectations.

EUGENIO MARIA DE HOSTOS MICRO SOCIETY SCHOOL

Girl: *Yaretzi Aguilar*

Yaretzi is President of the student council. She is willing to help her teachers and her classmates, smiling along the way. She is incredibly hard-working and she never falters in anything she sets out to accomplish. She is generous, helpful and a good friend to her peers. She also volunteers her time at the Riverfront Library.

Boy: *Fredenberg Dauphin*

Freddy has been a tremendous asset to the Hostos Community. He is focused and dedicated to his studies and is a shining star in the classroom. He has an aptitude for Social Studies and a natural talent at public speaking. Freddy is the first student to volunteer to assist his teachers and peers and is always someone his classmates can count on for help. Freddy has grown tremendously over the past two years metamorphosing into an eloquent, well-spoken, young man who is driven and motivated to achieve only the best.

SCHOOL 23

Girl: *Malak Abu-Mallouh*

Malak has consistently been an exemplar student during her years at School 23. She is respectful to her peers and adults alike. She plays on the basketball, soccer, volleyball and softball team and is a team leader. Malak is responsible, reliable, and a prime example of what a middle school student should be.

Boy: *Gabriel Estevez*

Gabriel stands out as a truly exceptional student. He is responsible, respectful, and the epitome of a good student. Gabriel has received numerous awards: Student of the Month, High Honor Roll, Principal's List, and Good Citizenship. He enjoys playing basketball and solving the Rubik's cube. Gabriel is part of the Mount Carmel Church community where he enjoys volunteering. His favorite subject is Math, a subject where he is a group leader.

CASIMIR PULASKI SCHOOL

Girl: *Emily Pena*

Emily is such an inspiring and lovely young woman. She demonstrates discipline and commitment to anything she pursues academically and socially. She is a positive influence on those around her. Emily has been involved in our play performances and is always kind and willing to support her peers and help her teachers. Emily is bright and has a sweet and flexible personality.

Boy: *Tyler Dobeck*

Tyler is a very kind-hearted and positive young man, always smiling, inspiring, and looking to help others around him or the school community. Tyler makes others feel happy. Tyler has been involved in the School play performance for the last three years and has become a great part of the program. Tyler has achieved High Honor Roll, Principal's List and received a Scholarship to Stepinac High School. He is an active annual volunteer for the Hudson Valley's Walk to End Alzheimer's. Tyler participates in the Chess Club of the Yonkers Parks and Recreation as well as an active sports member of the Hillcrest Lakers leagues.

KAHLIL GIBRAN SCHOOL

Girl: *Chloe Vazquez*

Chloe is an outstanding student and an exceptional young woman. As student editor of the school newspaper she consistently helps Mr. Di Monaco produce a quality paper. Chloe is fiercely independent. She always does the right thing, even when the right thing is not the popular thing to do. Chloe consistently demonstrates empathy for her peers. She is a valued member of the Gibran family.

Boy: *Haris Kolasinac*

Haris is an outstanding student; what sets him apart from his peers is his sense of maturity and consistent willingness to provide a positive example for his peers. He is not perfect, but readily admits mistakes and accepts responsibility. Haris is routinely among the first student volunteers to assist in our school's projects that benefit charitable causes. He routinely distributes food at bake sales, donates canned goods to homeless shelters, raises money for people in South Sudan and helps with younger students during recess. He strives for excellence in everything he does, while demonstrating humility and kindness towards his peers.

WESTCHESTER HILLS SCHOOL 29

Girl: *Zaina Siddiqua*

Zaina is hard-working, puts forth good effort and is determined to succeed. She always challenges herself and has a strong attendance record. She works well independently or with her peers and is respectful of authority. She loves to draw, play the violin and cook. She is mature, goal-oriented, and has made a positive impact on our school community.

Boy: *Jesse Ogbonuba*

Jesse has shown true growth, commitment to academic concepts, displaying his dedication and effort in the classroom environment. Jesse respects each individual student in his class as well as authority figures in his school community: through his polite manner towards the staff. He collects the recycled goods at the school. Jesse plays soccer, football, and hockey. He is interested in photography and coding and would like to pursue his career in the tech field.

SCHOOL 30

Girl: *Rayne Darcy*

Rayne is a student destined for greatness. As a student, she is hard-working, always excelling at concept understanding, and forever pushing herself to do better. As an athlete, she is the captain of the basketball team and leads that team both through her great athletic ability as well as her personal attributes of fairness, caring, and effort. Rayne is conscientious, a great friend, and has a very highly developed sense of humor. As her teachers, it has been a great privilege and pleasure to know Rayne.

Boy: *Charlie Rodriguez*

Charlie is one of the most honest, loyal, and moral people that we have come across School 30. Charlie has been known to stand up to bullies, help the special needs students, or reach out to new students to the building. Charlie always does this without being encouraged to do so and often at the risk of being unpopular or outcasted. He is a true up-stander with an incredible work ethic. Charlie is not always the top student academically, but he is one of the hardest working students and is always trying to do better. Charlie is a wonderful young man and we are all better off having known him. He has received many awards, including Honor Roll, High Honor Roll, and a variety of sports. Community service includes helping in his church, food drives, and school events.

FAMILY SCHOOL 32

Girl: *Leah Gapay*

Leah is a Principal's list student, assists and tutors her peers, and was elected class representative by her homeroom. Leah is kind and genuine, a true renaissance woman. Leah is also a good friend and member of the kindness club. She also plays softball. Leah volunteers for all fundraisers/food drives at school.

Boy: *Roger Rodriguez*

Roger is a hard worker and a leader in and outside of the classroom. He is a High Honor Roll student who loves the challenge of Math. Roger is a leader of the boy's basketball team as well as a member of the My Brother's Keeper and the Coding Club. Roger assisted in School 32's food drive, and has participated in their leukemia challenge.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ACADEMY

Girl: *Sophia Pena*

Sophia has been a model student and a positive contributor to our school community. Her hard work, peer leadership, and positive attitude continues to aid in improving Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy. She helps classmates with their work and reads to the younger students. She volunteers her time and plays sports too. She is a good role model for the school.

Boy: *Sergio Rocha*

Sergio is a quiet but committed and dedicated student. Sergio loves learning about Math, History and doing projects. He is a hard-working, kind, social, and athletic person. Sergio loves to play sports, attend sports events and play guitar. He illustrates his leadership by showing a good example to his fellow classmates by doing the right thing. He volunteers by helping his classmates with their work and the younger grades. Sergio also provides community service in his St. Peter's Church by delivering food from the food bank.

CROSS HILL ACADEMY

Girl: ***Yanisa Vasquez*****

Yanisa is a valued member of the Cross Hill Academy community. She exemplifies the ideal student, friend, and peer through the help and guidance she gives to her fellow students. She helps with the younger students and is always the first one to volunteer for the school community initiatives. Yanisa has a quiet strength that students and staff admire and we all know that she will do whatever she can to help anyone in need.

Boy: ***Luis Pita Collado***

Luis is a valued member of the Cross Hill Academy student body. He exemplifies the ideal student, friend and peer through the help and guidance he gives to his fellow students. He helps with the younger students and is always the first one to volunteer to help out with fundraisers and any other school community initiatives. Luis has achieved High Honor Roll. He is a member of My Brother's Keeper where he serves as a peer mentor for younger students. He enjoys sports.

CESAR E. CHÁVEZ SCHOOL

Girl: ***Jala Leonardo***

Jala is a wonderful role model to her peers. She goes out of her way to help others and excels in all of her classes. Jala is an asset to the Cesar E. Chávez School community. Jala is focused on her education and furthering her education after high school. She is passionate about dancing and is a volunteer at the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council.

Boy: ***Jose Murrieta***

Jose is an active and generous member of the Cesar E. Chávez School community. He is always ready to assist his classmates and he is consistently respectful and helpful to teachers and support staff in our building. Jose is an asset to the afterschool program as he is always working to better himself and assist with anyone who is struggling. He has received many awards. Jose's calm demeanor and kindness toward his peers has made him a central member of his social community and a wonderful role model for the younger students in our building. He enjoys soccer and boxing.

ENRICO FERMI SCHOOL

Girl: ***Jennifer Valdera***

Jennifer shows respect for authority, respect for peers, attendance, punctuality and care of school property. Jennifer is the Vice President of the Student Government and recognized for the 2019 Outstanding National History Day entry at the New York State Level. Jennifer has helped in organizing food drives and fundraising events. She is a leader to her peers and mentors those that need extra help. She has also participated in intramural sports.

Boy: ***Luis Grullon***

Luis enjoys working with others and maintains focus when performing difficult tasks. He is very social with his teachers and respects them at all costs. He shows leadership qualities, personable, and has a unique sense of humor that definitely adds to his camaraderie he has with her peers, "I enjoy making anyone laugh, especially when they're feeling upset." Luis plays intramural volleyball, is an editor in the Yearbook Club and an advocate participant in the Gender Sexuality Alliance. Luis led an initiative to create tolerance bracelets that spreads awareness and positivity for the school's climate.

PEARLS HAWTHORNE SCHOOL

Girl: *Adrina Tiju*

Adrina is a fantastic young lady who brings sunshine wherever she goes. Adrina is the ultimate role model for her peers because she is bright, enthusiastic, hard-working and most importantly kind. Adrina is on the Principal's List, part of the Math Counts Club, Science Olympiad Team and Robotics club. Adrina volunteers at church and school functions.

Boy: *Joyal Paul*

Joyal is a dedicated member of the school community. He is a good citizen and serves as a role model for his peers. Joyal is a High Honor Roll student. He is a clean-up helper in the cafeteria and is always willing to assist teachers. Joyal is a member of both the PEARLS Sports Club and Chess Club. His community service activities include being an active member of the St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Church. Joyal is a soccer coach assistant for the Bryn Mawr Boys and Girls Club. He loves sports and is able to use his skills and knowledge of soccer to help younger children succeed.

ROBERT C. DODSON SCHOOL

Girl: *Madeline Pozo*

Madeline shows persistence, motivation, optimism, and self-advocacy. She is a great listener, participant, very cooperative, and willing to learn something new each day; besides that, she has a great relationship with her classmates and teachers. Madeline is one of the sweetest girls I have ever met. Besides her excellent grades, she is always willing to learn, ready to help others, and be part of many extracurricular activities in our school.

Boy: *Hakim Awan*

Hakim is a dedicated member of the Robert C. Dodson community. Hakim demonstrates a giving and generous nature and is a responsible and compassionate student. He is a motivated young man who has the desire to be part of programs, which benefit the people of our school. He handles responsibility with dignity and maturity, demonstrating that he has what it takes to make a difference in people's lives. He strives daily to be a good role model for his peers and younger students. His awards include Honor Roll and the SOAR award. Hakim enjoys basketball and softball.

WILLIAM BOYCE THOMPSON SCHOOL

Girl: *Anaya Robinson*

Anaya is the vice president of our student council and has made great contributions to the school community through her leadership role. She has participated in toy, food and clothing drives and has developed ways to help offset the cost of various 8th-grade activities. She is part of the safety patrol and likes helping others. She also tutors her peers. Anaya is a model student who has made honor roll multiple times.

Boy: *Brandon Costa***

Brandon is a AAA safety Patrolman and is committed to keeping our younger students safe. He patrols the hallways during dismissal and helps to ensure that the younger students arrive at their bus locations safely. Brandon is also the school's meteorologist and reports the local weekend weather to the school community every Friday. In addition, Brandon is a model student who has made Honor roll on multiple occasions. He has volunteered at St. John's Hospital, where he entertained the elderly clients with games, snacks, and during holiday events.

YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Girl: **Roniya Iype**

Roniya is a phenomenal artist and astute student who volunteers her time and talent with peers. She created and manages an artistic team that decorates the doors and hallways for special school events. She volunteers her time after school to tutor 8th grade students struggling in ELA. She also volunteers her time at her church youth group and Sunday school.

Boy: **Jack Doyle**

Jack's commitment to his peers and the positive tone of the class is unmeasured. His favorite subject is social studies. He is an active member of his community and he tutors other students. He has received 6 minor board GAA awards and multiple NY Rangers GFC awards. Jack participates in the NY Rangers Gaelic Football, Le Cheile Hurling Club, Woodlean Basketball, and in YMA Middle School Soccer team.

PALISADES PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Girl: **Brianna Martinez**

Brianna is a sweet, kind, respectful, and a wonderful student academically. Brianna displays great character in and out of the classroom. She brings 100% when she is in the classroom and loves learning new things. Brianna has this poise about herself that lets you know she is confident about her self-worth. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to her peers.

Boy: **Brandon Mohammed**

Brandon volunteered to help the school welcome new staff and faculty. His natural abilities and serious work ethic make his peers always turn to him for answers. His desire for excellence is selfless. He will lead when a leadership position is vacant but will follow generously while making sure that whoever is leading the group remains focused on an achievable goal by following a logical path. Brandon facilitates his classmate's performance by paying attention to details and keeping communication open and inclusive. His outstanding contribution is his unending interest and works toward making Palisade Preparatory school an inclusive community where every student has deep authentic connections to each other and support within their peer group.

YONKERS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Girl: **Ava Romero**

Ava is a tremendous student and contributor to our school community. She consistently works towards noble goals like collecting money for the Pennies for Patients and organizing food donations for the needy. Ava also takes the time to patiently guide classmates towards academic success and emotional stability. She can always be counted on as a small group leader or Socratic seminar facilitator. She has demonstrated a keen awareness of the single most important trait in a strong leader: empathy.

Boy: **Wahab Mian-Chaudhary**

Wahab is a remarkable young man. His attendance and punctuality are stellar. His character is his true strength. He leads through example in so many ways. He has a gift for interacting genuinely with other students and staff. His gentle but quick wit puts a smile on the faces of all that he meets. He always offers a helping hand and an intelligent insight or a word of encouragement. He is often nominated as a group leader and Socratic seminar facilitator because of the respect he has earned from his peers. His ability to maintain schoolwork, socialization, and acts of compassion is to be applauded.

Patricia A. DiChiaro Memorial Award

(Sponsored by YCPTSA)

Awarded to an outstanding 8th Grade student, who has demonstrated a strong commitment to give generously of their time and energy, most uniquely, in service and concern for others in a selfless manner.

8th Grade Boy or Girl

****District-Wide winners**

SCHOOL 5

Caitlin Pinto

Caitlin adores school and uses her skills and abilities to better herself. She has assisted pre-k students with their activities, leading them to become better students. She has volunteered at community centers by helping to serve food, setting up for events and cleaning up. Caitlin is a driven student who sets high goals that she will achieve. Three words that describe Caitlin are leadership, friendship, and education.

PATRICIA A. DICHIARO SCHOOL

Nora Sharkey

Nora is a bright, creative and inquisitive young woman. She is a lifetime learner who loves to explore new topics. Her enthusiasm for learning is outstanding and she puts great effort into everything she does. Nora is socially, emotionally, and academically well rounded. She is an asset to our community.

SCHOOL 13

Marissa Dias

Marissa is an asset to any school community she enters. Not only does she care about her own personal growth as a student, but she also embraces any challenge that is presented to her. She is a very friendly and mature young lady that is determined to achieve her academic goals, and is always willing to help. She is a role model to her school community and is very deserving of this recognition. Her awards include being Student of the Month, and achieving High Honor Roll consecutively in 7th & 8th grade. When she graduates, she will truly be missed.

PAIDEIA SCHOOL 15

Saoirse Coyle

Saoirse gives back to the community as much as possible. For example, she has volunteered her time to work with the Ronald McDonald House, American Red Cross, and the Little League Charity. Saoirse has also helped the younger children in her church with their CCD lessons and has volunteered her time to assist residents in her building of residence by shoveling and raking leaves. Saoirse has a real talent for Irish music and teaches the children in her neighborhood.

SCHOOL 16

Emily Robles

Emily is a remarkable young lady in our 8th grade graduating class. She always has a smile on her face and is ready and willing to begin whatever task is set in front of her. She is a very helpful student, both inside and outside of school. She volunteers her time helping around the building whenever she can, and also is active in her church and neighborhood community. Volunteering for projects like Blue Santa, food drives, and Locks of Love shows Emily's giving personality. We are proud to have her in our class, and proud to nominate her for this award.

SCHOLASTIC ACADEMY FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Ruby Silva Resendiz

Ruby is extremely thoughtful in every sense of the word. She is considerate of others and measured in formulating an idea during the learning process. While her diligence is evident in everything she does, she remains humble in her everyday interactions. Whether tasked with approaching a complex task or solving a problem collaboratively, Ruby distinguishes herself. Over the last few years, she has excelled without needing (or seemingly wanting) recognition. Ruby is the epitome of an intrinsic motivated young person, and her future is all the brighter because of it.

EUGENIO MARIA DE HOSTOS MICROSOCIETY SCHOOL

Justin Lauture

Justin has proven himself as a confident, hard-working, respectful and honorable young man. His respect for teachers and staff, as well as students, is unlike most young men. He is dutiful in his respect for others. He is always at school ready to learn, eager to participate, and has always shown to take care of the environment. He has been an active part of the Middle School government for two years, and was also a member of Micro during the elementary years.

SCHOOL 23

Angel Martinez

Angel is a wonderful young man who has grown in the two years I've known him. He quietly achieved multiple awards last year. This year he has become more outspoken while maintaining his brilliance. He is well on his way to earning multiple awards again. Angel is a hard-working individual who strives for perfection. Academically he is consistently at the top of his class. Angel is also a helpful young man. He is often finished with his work early so he helps others around him to improve. He also helps out School 23 community by participating in activities.

CASIMIR PULASKI SCHOOL

Sandra Berishaj

Sandra is always willing to participate and help others around her. She is reliable and a great communicator with her peers and adults. Any available opportunity to participate she is the first to volunteer. Sandra is cooperative and flexible which allows for great involvement in many parts of our school building. She is involved in our school play and yearbook committee. Her commitment to both of these groups has been constant and strong.

KAHLIL GIBRAN SCHOOL

Chandon Chansrisuriyawong

Chandon is an outstanding student, but what sets him apart from his peers is his excellent leadership attributes. He admits mistakes, assumes responsibility and is always willing to set a good example in word and deed. Chandon is routinely among the first students to step forward and volunteer to assist in our school's many projects that benefit charitable causes. He strives for excellence in everything he does, while demonstrating humility, and kindness towards his peers. He is an outstanding candidate for this incredible honor.

WESTCHESTER HILLS SCHOOL 29

Eric Lu

Eric is a bright, caring, and dedicated student who is committed to not only individual academic success but also to the success of his peers, always willing to assist as needed and dedicate his time and efforts to support students who struggle with a lesson or assignment. Eric is a leader in and outside of the classroom and is willing to be a part of whatever he can to make his school shine. When he puts his mind to a task, he completes it to the best of his abilities, using prior knowledge and information from the outside world to relate to, and make deeper connections. Throughout the year Eric has taken part in assisting his peers, teachers, and school community. He designed the cover for this year's yearbook. Eric uses his knowledge and kind heart for good use without expecting an ounce in return. He portrays a selfless student who is dedicated and committed to the success of all.

SCHOOL 30

Nina Maloney

Nina is an exemplar in all things. Nina is a perennial Principal's List scholar, has already received various scholarships and awards for parochial schools next year, and is this year's class president. She is definitely a model student academically but what Nina is most known for at School 30 is her kindness, friendships, and stewardship towards the school and its community. Nina has spear-headed several school programs such as school dances and has made several contributions and suggestions in her role as student liaison in the Principal's Shared Decision Committee. Nina is a wonderful and important part of our school community and she will be greatly missed.

FAMILY SCHOOL 32

Krystal Areizaga

Krystal is the student body president and has volunteered her time to assist with food drives, fundraisers for the local animal shelter and her church. She relates well to both her peers and adults, and serves as a liaison between the administration and the students in our school. Aside from her charity work, she maintains her Principal's List status and even found time to focus on a role in our school production of "Aladdin, Jr." She carries herself with confidence and class. Furthermore, I would like to note that when we received a new student who did not speak any English, Krystal took it upon herself to become her personal translator, assisted with her navigating the school, homework, etc.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ACADEMY

Amber Morales

Amber has been an asset to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy community. Not only does she assist classmates and teachers in the classroom, but she has also volunteered her time to help distribute food to students/families of MLKA and tutor peers as needed. She is very deserving of the Patricia DiChiaro Award.

CROSS HILL ACADEMY

Shilu Abraham

Shilu is a selfless student who is ready, willing, and eager to help classmates with their academics in every class. She is a valued member of the Cross Hill Student body and volunteers to assist in classroom activities as well as school-wide activities. As a student with high academic standards and achievement, Shilu helps with peers and younger students whenever she is asked.

[CESAR E. CHÁVEZ SCHOOL](#)

Genesis Montalvo

Genesis is a sweet young lady who works hard and makes her education a priority. Genesis is a wonderful role model to her peers and the entire Cesar E. Chávez Community. She is always looking to help those around her. She especially likes to help classmates who are struggling with their work. She is an asset to the Cesar E. Chávez school community and cares about others.

[ENRICO FERMI SCHOOL](#)

Lesly Torres

Lesly exhibits a strong commitment to her community and all the tasks she tackles. Lesly is a self-motivated student who advocates for her education. She is the President of the Student Government Association at Enrico Fermi. Lesly researched soup kitchens around Yonkers and advocated that her peers volunteer at these soup kitchens around the holidays to give back to the community. She enjoys scriptwriting and acting and is dedicated to her educational success. Lesly Torres leads senior fundraisers and activities like the Thanksgiving Food Drive and Book Drive at Enrico Fermi. Lesly volunteers at the Riverfront Library on weekends and over the summer, organizing and as a clerk at the front desk. She also helps maintain the gardens at Untermeyer Park. Overall, Lesly Torres contributes greatly to the community through her consistent hard work, persistence, and self-motivation; truly outstanding traits as only an 8th-grade student!

[PEARLS HAWTHORNE SCHOOL](#)

Jonell Henriques

Jonell is a well-rounded young man who is dedicated to service work both inside and outside of the school community. At PEARLS, Jonell is a Principal's List student and an active member of various enrichment and extracurricular programs. He is currently a member of the PEARLS Math Counts Team and the Yonkers Intramural Basketball Team. Jonell is not only bright, but a true team player and a class act. He is well respected and an active member of his church's Community Outreach Program – Ebenezer Church of God in Yonkers. Jonell volunteers as a teacher's assistant at Sunday School, organizes and assists with activities such as Toys for Tots, Back to School Jam, Health and Wellness Fair, and Feed Your Body, Feed Your Soul. Jonell's commitment to service and kindness make him the ideal DiChiaro Award recipient.

[ROBERT C. DODSON SCHOOL](#)

Juan Morales**

Juan is an excellent student with a strong work ethic. He was elected to the Robert C. Dodson School Student Government for the past two years. Juan takes great pride in everything he is involved in and always goes above and beyond with any task. He is a great role model who makes a positive impact on our younger students. He regularly makes Principal's list and has a sound moral character which is apparent in everything he does. He has overwhelming compassion for others and approaches situations in a very mature manner. Juan has organized our World Hunger Day, WE School-Wide Initiative Program, he rallied the student body to participate in the drive for the James J. Peters Veterans Hospital, and is a member of My Brother's Keeper. Last year he was Robert C. Dodson School's representative for the Gettysburg Address Rhetorical Contest and participated in the Yonkers' History Contest as well. Juan volunteers his spare time and commits himself fully in everything he does. He is a true asset to the Robert C. Dodson School community and is an outstanding young man and is a notable role model.

[WILLIAM BOYCE THOMPSON SCHOOL](#)

Kaylee Nunez

Kaylee is currently the President of our Student Council and a member of our AAA Safety Patrol. As president of the Student Council, Miss Nunez has spearheaded several initiatives to help other students through toy, food and clothing drives. Kaylee has also developed innovative ways to help offset the cost of activities for those students experiencing financial hardship. Miss Nunez is also dedicated to the safety of others. As a safety patrol officer, Kaylee is responsible for ensuring that the younger students arrive at their bus areas. She also assists with keeping the hallways clear and safe during dismissal.

[YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY](#)

Karen Gutierrez

Karen is a talented student who contributes to the learning community. She has gotten involved in her local church by volunteering and helping in any way she can. She is very artistic and enjoys painting as well as history. Karen is well-deserving of this award and a great role model for the younger students of Yonkers Montessori Academy.

[PALISADES PREPARATORY SCHOOL](#)

Tamoya Lewin

Tamoya has served as a leader in her class. She is always willing to serve as a mentor for her peers. While working cooperatively in class, she is patient and dedicated not only to her success, but that of her peers. She is bright and soft-spoken and is actively involved in her education. When asked to reach out to others, she is always willing to go over and beyond my expectations.

[YONKERS MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL](#)

Alexandra Mitov

Alexandra is a diligent student and a great role model for her fellow students. Her commendable attendance record is the least of her notable accomplishments. She is always one of the first students to arrive for her classes. She takes great care in submitting all her work on time. Respectful is one of her most prominent traits. Alexandra always assists in helpful activities like putting laptops away and organizing desks. She assists in our food drive and other school charities. She also demonstrates this sense of respect in more subtle ways. She connects deeply and empathetically with peers and adults alike. Showing genuine concern and interest in the lives of others appears to bring her a sense of fulfillment. During this current pandemic, Alexandra has realized the importance of keeping connections strong in order to endure the storm.

Mabel Bell Scholarship Award

(Sponsored by YCPTA)

The Mabel Bell Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding High School graduating Senior for dedicating time and effort in a multitude of activities. A student who unselfishly volunteers of himself/herself through school and community, and who is respected by his/her peers.

WINNER: ***Litzy Mejia***

PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Litzy unselfishly volunteers by recycling and gardening at a local museum, organizes food donations at the YWCA as a PEARL program Member, where she also volunteers in drug prevention workshops. She has led cooking workshops and is involved with arts and crafts activities with the youth.

She politely and responsibly works to improve community relations as a porter at St. Mary's Church, volunteer to the Yonkers Police Department, and as member of her student government. She served as the Second Lieutenant of the first EMT Cadet program with Empress Ambulance Corp and is certified in Advanced First Aid and Basic Life Support Skills.

Litzy created The Open Space Club, providing an after-school sanctuary for the LGBTQ community. She is a Shelving Page at the Riverfront Library and often assists with the Bilingual needs of the community. She has done seasonal work for Stew Leonard's to aide her family.

Litzy is ranked first in her class at Palisade Prep with a rigorous class load, she has received High Honor Roll, is a member of the National Honor Society, Club 90 Bronze Pin Recipient, and nominee for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Litzy has participated in the Young People's Assembly as a speaker in panel discussions such as Mental Health discussions. She plans to pursue a career in Psychology, and is open-minded to all that interests her.

Dr. Paul M. Mitchell Humanitarian Award

(Sponsored by YCPTA)

Awarded to a graduating High School Senior for showing concern for others through school and community involvement. A student who has shown outstanding ability to deal justly with all regardless of racial, religious, ethnic or economic background. A student actively engaged in promoting human welfare and social reform.

WINNER: ***Elissa Morales***

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL – EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

Elissa is invested in her community in many ways, encouraging her to become a more sensitive human being. As a Junior Achievement Student Teacher, she has passionately helped many children of diverse backgrounds. She connected with a young boy from Ghana by helping him to adjust to a new life in America, throughout which she realized she wanted to make a difference in her community as well as develop her global impact. Being a Student Representative of the Unified Student Leadership Council of Yonkers has also opened her eyes to be sensitive to others regardless of their background. Elissa enjoys the performing arts, dancing, singing, and acting. She is a leader on the Senior Committee, planning activities for all the seniors at her school. She is a YPIE Scholar who takes her academics seriously, working hard to ensure a promising future.

Millie Yochman Special Recognition Award

(Sponsored by YCPTA)

Awarded to a High School Graduating Senior officially designated as an exceptional student by the Committee on Special Education. The Student must show interest in further pursuing his/her education, and shows good citizenship by contributing to the welfare of the school. A student who shows growth in achievement within the scope of a total academic program.

WINNER: ***Evelise Hernandez***

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL – EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES

Evelise is both a hard-working and well-rounded student. She is enthusiastic, cooperative, perseverant, and has a desire to excel academically. She is also creative, trustworthy, reliable, optimistic and good-humored. She possesses generosity and maturity well above her peers. Her decision to enroll in College Link and honors classes shows her ability to accept a challenge. Evelise focus on her future as revealed in her academic success and her involvement in extracurricular and volunteer experiences. She showed leadership and tenacity on the soccer field and volunteered to organize events in school. Evelise is an extremely diligent student and is someone who truly values her educational opportunities. Her participation and insight make her a valuable asset here at Roosevelt High School.

Evelise states the following “I realized that all it takes is the right person to care about you, to take the time to understand you and your problems. My dream is to repay the person that took the time to help me, and I believe the best way to do so is to help children who struggle as I once did”

A special thank you to all our Students, Teachers, Staff, Administrators, the Siragusa Family and the DiChiaro Family for making this a great success and wonderful experience.

Thank you to Yonkers Public Schools

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools

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Dr. Corey W. Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Equity and AccessCurriculum, Instruction, School Supervision, Elementary Administration

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Booklet Proofread by the Citizenship and Scholarship Awards Committee Members

Booklet Front Cover Design: Ann Marie Papanagnostou

Booklet Layout Design: Sophia Wu

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