

## **2017 Student of the Year:**

### **Nomination Criteria**

Presented to one male and one female student, the Student of the Year Award is intended to recognize young people who exemplify the best of our youth. Students are nominated by a member of the Ohio Middle Level Association.

- All OMLA members are eligible to nominate a candidate.
- The individual nominating the student may be a teacher, administrator or parent.
- Nominee must be currently enrolled in an Ohio Middle Level School.

### **Criteria for Evaluation of Nominations**

- Nominated students should demonstrate qualities of good citizenship and provide evidence of making a positive contribution to both the school and community.
- Student may receive the award only once.

### **Awarding the Honor**

- A committee of the Ohio Middle Level Association Executive Board members will review all applications and determine the award recipient.
- The selected Student-of-the-Year will be recognized at the OMLA annual state conference.
- Awards will be a plaque and \$500.00 savings bond for each student.

### **Winning Submission**

Hannah Fender Nomination  
2017 Student of the Year

#### **Criteria**

- Nominated students should demonstrate qualities of good citizenship and provide evidence of making a positive contribution to both the school and the community

**Positive Leadership:** Write a short paragraph identifying the nominee's ability to create and contribute to a safe school environment. Identify their citizenship skills in both the school and community.

Hannah Fender is currently an 8th grader at Kenston Middle School in Bainbridge, Ohio. She is the oldest of 7 children in her family. While at the middle school, Hannah has been a yearly member of the KMS S.T.A.N.D. Committee (Students Taking A New Direction). Many students apply to become a member of this group, but after getting teacher recommendations only a small number of students are selected. As a member of STAND, Hannah has displayed her leadership and public speaking skills in her frequent role of introducing school speakers at yearly all-school functions, participating in anti-bullying videos and spearheading the efforts of her fellow STAND committee members to spend after school hours blanketing lockers with sticky notes so when students arrive to school the next morning they are greeted with positive, affirmative messages. One of her most impressive traits is her love and devotion to her family. Her brother, A.J., has Down Syndrome and during 7th grade, Hannah selected A.J. as the focus of her English presentation about heroes. Her presentation was both personal and moving. Her mother shared it with another mother who then asked Hannah to share her presentation with young mothers of children with Down Syndrome through an organization called The Upside of Downs. Hannah was so impactful to that group with her presentation that she was invited back the following year and spoke to another group of mothers of children with Down Syndrome. Hannah's heart always shines through in whatever she does. During 8th grade, she was required to complete monthly current event projects for her English class. For her first project, she decided to research the beautiful sunflower field she noticed on the side of busy highway, I-90 in Avon, Ohio. It turns out that the sunflower fields were made in memory of the owner's daughter who died of brain cancer. These grieving parents were so touched by Hannah's interest in their garden and how they use the garden to spread the seeds of hope (packets of sunflower seeds) to others that they sent her a t-shirt and more information about what they do with their project called "Planting Hope". Hannah then shared this experience with her KMS teachers and fellow students. Hannah is the kind of student who spreads love and joy to everyone she meets.

**Academic Attributes:** Identify the student's work ethic and how the nominee values learning.

Hannah is a member of the English Gifted Challenge class and she works hard in all subject areas to earn excellent grades. She has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. throughout her Middle School Career including High School credited classes, Algebra and Spanish 1. The quality of her work is always superior. It is clear to her teachers that she spends time focusing on her studies while balancing extracurricular activities, family time, church time, sports and community service. Hannah always sets the bar high in her classroom activities and she motivates her peers to do their best. Her classmates know and respect her for always being a kind, inclusive, supportive partner on projects as well as a fellow student who

they can count on to complete the highest level of excellence in her work. It is with the highest recommendation that I nominate Hannah Fender for the 2017 Student of the Year.

### **2017 Parent of the Year:**

#### **Nomination Criteria**

- All OMLA schools are eligible to nominate a candidate.
- Individual may be nominated by a teacher or administrator.
- Previous recipients may not be nominated.
- The nomination form must include a description of how students in particular, have benefited from the contribution of the nominated parent.

#### **Criteria for Evaluation of Nominations**

- Each year a parent who makes significant contributions of time, service, and leadership to a school will be acknowledged with this award. Awarding the Honor
- A committee of the Ohio Middle Level Association Executive Board members will review all applications and determine the award recipient.
- The selected Parent-of-the-Year will be recognized at the OMLA annual state conference

#### **Winning Submission**

Shelly McDonough  
2017 Parent of the Year

- A parent who makes a significant contribution of time, service and leadership to a school

To know Shelly McDonough is to love her! Her ready smile, infectious can-do spirit and boundless energy always draws people into whatever she is spearheading or championing. Shelly is the proud mother of Emily (college freshman), Jack (sophomore in high school) and Danny (7th grader at Kenston Middle School in Bainbridge, Ohio).

Shelly is an eager participant in co-chairing the middle school's PTO fundraiser, which for this year was an all-school dance complete with DJ, games, food, fun activities and prizes. To promote and advertise the October 2016 dance, we held an all school assembly which Shelly wrote and directed, as well as easily convinced many teachers to participate. Many teachers quickly said "YES" to Shelly when she asked them to throw pies at each other, wear an inflatable costume and run through a maze or ballroom dance in front of a packed auditorium of cheering middle schoolers. Shelly, along with her committee, ensured the dance was a big success for the school earning \$8,900. Shelly made sure to ask teachers to tell her the names of those students who couldn't afford the \$25 entrance fee so she could be sure every student would have the chance to be part of this fun, community spirited dance. She wouldn't allow money to stand in the way of that.

Shelly also runs the Kenston School District's spirit wear store, located within KMS, and regularly organizes parent volunteers to work the store every Tuesday and Thursday so students and parents can shop. Seeing her at high school and other district events selling spirit wear is considered "the norm." She has been doing this since Jack was in Middle School. It is not uncommon to pass Shelly in the hallway on her way down to the school store, helping out at the Scholastic Book Fair or assisting with Staff Appreciation Week and concessions at the quarterly KMS dances. She enjoys chatting with teachers and laughing with students.

Shelly's children also participate in the KMS school musicals and Shelly is usually in the thick of volunteering by hosting the cast party at her home or organizing parents to prepare mementos for the cast. Other parent volunteers enjoy being around her. There often is a lot of laughter and fun when Shelly is around and her ability to gather other parents to join in is invaluable. Shelly single handedly has made a difference in the lives of the KMS community, teachers, staff and students in the way she has encouraged us all. She is a role model, an inspiration and even better, the energizer bunny!