

## **Middle School Award Description & Criteria**

**The Head of School Award:** This award was established in 1990 to recognize a student who has exemplified outstanding Leadership, Scholarship and Service while at TCS. The award recipient is decided upon recommendation to the Head of School with significant input from faculty and staff. **“Leadership, Service, Scholarship”**

**Mac Rives Award:** This award is named for the man who was first hired to serve as Head of our school, which was then called Shawnee Country Day School. Mr. Rives was killed in a car accident the summer before the school first opened. The board members who knew him wanted his important contributions to the founding of the school to be remembered. The award recipient will be selected by a majority vote of the entire faculty each year. The student will also be awarded a \$100 scholarship. The Rives scholar will be chosen based on the following criteria:

1. Intellectual curiosity and a respect for excellence.
2. A love of nature and respect for all forms of life.
3. Enjoyment and appreciation of athletics and team sports.
4. Imagination.
5. A gentle humor and wit.
6. A loving, compassionate concern towards others.
7. A desire to make the world a better place.

**“The Mind of a Scientist, the Heart of a Poet, and the Ways of a Gentle Person.”**

**Debra Pakaluk Award:** This award was established in May 1991 in honor of former TCS Science teacher Debra Pakaluk. The recipient of this award will be chosen each year by a majority vote of the Middle School Faculty and the Head of School. Although this group will select the recipient, they will welcome input from the Board of Trustees, parents and other teachers. The Pakaluk Award recipient will be a Middle School student who:

1. Takes pride in his/her work.
2. Demonstrates curiosity about both the humanities (literature, history, languages, and the fine arts) and the sciences (science and mathematics.)
3. Acts on academic curiosity by participating in class discussions and activities.
4. Demonstrates academic interest by:
  - a. Asking questions.
  - b. Doing research.
  - c. Going beyond the required elements of an assignment. d. Doing outside reading and investigation.
5. Appears to be enjoying life by demonstrating:
  - a. Cheer and humor.
  - b. Warmth and kindness.
  - c. Acceptance and tolerance.

The recipient will be a student who appears to be on the road to lifelong learning.  
**“Find joy in learning, Find joy in Life”**

**Character Counts Award:** The Character Counts award is given each year to a student who truly exemplifies six core virtues or pillars of character—Trustworthiness, Respect, Fairness, Caring, Responsibility and Citizenship. The recipient of this award is voted on by the middle school faculty, but because a person’s character is evidenced in *all* aspects of a person’s life, we also ask MS students to give us their input about who most deserves this award. The students are given a form and asked to write the name of a peer beside each of the six character traits, and then add a sentence or two to support their nominee. This is usually done in Language Arts class as a writing exercise.

**“Respect, Caring, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness, Responsibility”**

**Susan H. Garlinghouse Humanitarian Award:** This award was established in the 2006-2007 school year to honor of one of the school’s founders. In addition to helping to establish Topeka Collegiate School, Susan has been helping to improve life in Topeka through her many years of community service. The student chosen for this award will receive a \$100 scholarship award as well. The recipient of this award will be a student who has demonstrated the following:

1. Significant contributions to the community
2. Humanitarian service to improve the welfare of humankind
3. An innovative approach to addressing community needs
4. An ability to lead, inspire, and engage other students, and
5. A legacy of positive change

**“Service to Humankind, Innovative Leadership, Legacy of Positive Change”**

**Class Address:** The Class Address award is presented to the student who delivers the Class Address on behalf of the graduating class at graduation.