

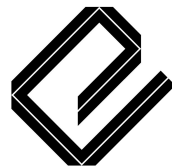
Kids with Character

Sincerity. It's a simple word, yet it carries so much value, especially when you're on the receiving end of its generosity. For anyone fortunate enough to spend time with Ryan deCarlo, you're familiar with sincerity and what it looks like when embodied by a caring, responsible 11-year-old. "Ryan's mannerisms and good standings are always in his willingness to help someone out that needs it, especially when it comes to the elderly and grandparents," said Ryan's mother, Heather deCarlo, who nominated her son for The Chronicle's Kids With Character. "By nature, Ryan loves to give and always asks if anyone needs help, whether in public, at home, at school, or on the playground." In addition to his attention to his schoolwork at St. Peter Elementary School in North Ridgeville, the outgoing fifth-grader participates at Mr. Dee's Karate Academy three days a week. So while he's learning to defend himself, he's breaking down our defenses with his kindness (he greets everyone he meets with a polite "hello") and his grace (he often donates his own money at school and to charities). "Ryan goes a long way when complimenting or telling someone it's OK when they're unhappy, or addressing someone to say they "look nice today." And he does it all with sincerity.



Ryan

This recognition showcases students who have made a difference by accepting responsibility, showing kindness, valuing others' concerns, helping resolve conflicts and honoring their commitments.



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For nomination criteria, go to www.chroniclet.com/Nie or email barbstephens@windstream.net or call 440-329-7239