

Kids with Character

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

It's rare, but sometimes winners finish second. For proof, look no further than last year's District Spelling Bee, when Shane Henderson was the runner-up and yet was content letting someone else have the spotlight.

"He's selfless," said Dede Standen, Shane's eighth-grade teacher at St. Peter School in Lorain. "He seems to have the confidence that his needs will be met, but that the needs of others are more important."

Those "needs" of others include staying alive. When Shane was in fifth grade, he awoke in the middle of the night and noticed that the walls of his closet were glowing orange. He rushed to wake up his family and helped them get outside, saving them from a fire that destroyed their home.

When not rescuing family members from infernos, Shane stays busy with typical activities for a 13-year-old boy, including karate lessons and baseball. But this Kid With Character doesn't stop there.

"He teaches Bible study to younger children," Mrs. Standen said. "And he does it on his own time, not during school."

Of course not, because that would cut in to chess club, the Academic Challenge, and his role as student government vice president (see, there's that letting-others-have-the-glory thing again).

"Not doing what is right just doesn't seem to enter his thought process," Mrs. Standen said. "His demeanor really makes others want to help people."

So if you're looking for Shane Henderson, find the person standing in the spotlight, or holding the trophy, and then look behind that person.



Shane

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