

# 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.*

For teenagers, bravery often is measured by simply raising your hand.

You see, when a middle-school teacher asks a question, the “cool” thing for students to do is nothing at all. Just sit there, look disinterested, and don’t say a word.

But Madeleine Hapanowicz isn’t overly concerned with peer pressure or appearing “cool.”

“Giving a wrong answer is something students do not want to do,” said Kathy Neuman, Madeleine’s honors science teacher at Avon Middle School. “But Madeleine will take this risk even when she is not sure she is correct. This is a sign that she’s confident, and that’s what a leader needs to be.”

And if you want proof, Madeleine’s honors language arts teacher is glad to provide some: “Weeks ago the students were reviewing an assessment for a test,” Nancy King said. “I began coughing and having trouble continuing the review. Madeleine took my place and led the class in the discussion of the correct responses.”

She didn’t take time to ponder the coolness of it, she simply followed her good character and acted on it ...

something she does as a classroom aid for seventh-grade teacher Heather Pelphrey. “She helps me to create displays, tests, and other items for my classroom and lessons,” Pelphrey said. “She does everything without even asking what needs to be done. She sees an area where she can help and does so without my request.”

Kids With Character lead by example, and if these three teachers are any indication, there are dozens more who would step forward with praise for the humble 14-year-old who also happens to keep excellent grades and play on the school basketball team.

“She holds strong to her ideals and encourages her friends to be good people as well,” Pelphrey said. “She is one young lady with a very bright outlook and future.”

We’ll raise our hand to agree with that!



**Madeleine**

**EMH HEALTHCARE**  
co-sponsor Expert care. Exceptional caring.

**nie** THE CHRONICLE  
Newspaper  
Internet &  
Education

For nomination criteria, go to [www.chroniclet.com/Nie](http://www.chroniclet.com/Nie) or email [bstephens@chroniclet.com](mailto:bstephens@chroniclet.com) or call 440-329-7239