

# 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.*

Through the years, we've been blessed to meet some truly outstanding kids with character. But while each has been special in his or her own way, few have inspired us the way Madeline Geitz has.

Not only is the humble Oberlin High School senior a shining example of what it means to put others' needs before her own, she's also driven by a thirst for knowledge that has no discernable satiation point. And among her sources of motivation is Randall Munroe, who happens to be a former roboticist for NASA.

"He has inspired me to make learning intriguing and accessible, especially when it comes to math and science," Madeline said. "In order to fight the all-too-common aversion to these subjects, they have to appeal to an audience. Why not mix them with the things we know people understand — scavenger hunts, love stories, puns and awkward social situations?"

Madeline implements this philosophy in the projects she sets up while working with the Dubois Fraction Club at a local elementary school. "These activities motivate kids to enjoy math the same way they enjoy recess, opening their eyes to some of the cooler applications of the things they learn in school to real life," she said.

Among her other resume builders, Madeline is Student Council President, Food Awareness Club Vice President, Marching Band Assistant Field Commander, Secretary of the Board of Oberlin Weekday Community Meals, and has accumulated more than 200 hours of community service through her school's INTERACT Club.

And then there are her awards and achievements, which, not surprisingly, she mentions reluctantly. We don't have room to list them all, but they include: National Merit Finalist, Ohio Representative: World Food Prize Global Youth Institute, Cleveland Technical Societies Council Honors Junior, Smith College Book Award, and LCCC LEGO Olympiad Computer Controlled Team Division Medaller.

As for her plans beyond graduation?

"Studying biology or biomathematical sciences in college, then attending graduate school for an MD and PhD," she said. "It's very important to me to study STEM in the context of social responsibility — I hope to go into public health in an effort to benefit communities with limited access to health resources."

Madeline is the daughter of Robert Geitz and Kerry Langan and is sister to fifteen-year-old Anna.



**Madeline**

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