

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.

Three teens — Allison Wetzler, 13, Veronica Warren, 14, and Katelin Sallay, 13 — were nominated to be Chronicle-Telegram Kids With Character for their selfless work volunteering to help other students.

The children have been eighth-graders this year at Learwood Middle School in Avon Lake, where one of their teachers, Deborah Simmerly, noticed the compassion and helpfulness they've exhibited in her classroom.

"My student helpers gave up their study hall every day for an entire school year to help in my room," said Simmerly, who nominated the students to be Kids With Character. "They research interactive games on the Internet and create engaging board games that go along with every unit we study and provide my students the opportunity to practice challenging concepts."

Simmerly said that isn't all the three kids do — they also assist students with their class work, offer peer tutoring and grade papers.

"Most importantly, they interacted with my students," Simmerly said. "My students don't have as many

opportunities to interact with peers their own age and these three girls went out of their way to let each and every student of mine know that they cared, they were interested and that they could offer help if they needed it."

She said Allison, Veronica and Katelin made her math class fun and exciting as well as interactive and real.

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't know how I was going to teach seventh-grade content curriculum to students whose range in math was from first grade to third grade," Simmerly said. "With the help of these three amazing students, I not only introduced grade-level content, but my students were able to grasp it and apply it."

Outside of school, the kids are involved in quite a few

extracurriculars. Allison is involved in football cheerleading, tumbling and a capella; Ronnie is involved in dance; and Katelin participates in ski club and takes dance classes. Allison, Ronnie and Katelin's parents, respectively, are Shellie and Doug Wetzler, Karen and Jeff Warren, and James and Laura Sallay.



Left to right: Veronica Warren, Allison Wetzler and Katelin Sallay.

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For nomination criteria, go to www.chroniclet.com/nie or call Btarb Ritsko-Stephens at 329-7239.