

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.

Claire Sussman, 14, was nominated to be a Chronicle-Telegram Kid With Character for being a model student at Avon Middle School who's very driven — to succeed and to help others.

Her social studies teacher, Tim Wearsch, said she's "just one of those really stand out kids."



Claire Sussman
Avon Middle School

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"She's one of those students who is a classroom leader," Wearsch said. "She's there to help students of varying levels. She's one of the top students in class but she's there to help other students at the same time."

Wearsch said Claire steps up to lead small group sessions in class to help fellow students who need additional help.

Claire, an eighth-grader who takes honors courses and high school-level French, gets straight As.

Her math teacher, Robert Nieding, called Claire an outstanding student, adding that she is "a joy to have in class."

Claire is very busy when she's not in a classroom: she's involved in her church, volunteers at Avon Public Library, does tumbling and is in fitness classes. Not only that, she's also in art club, drama club and the orchestra where she plays violin.

"She's already very goal oriented," Wearsch said — Claire hopes to go to Ohio State University to enroll in its dentistry program one day.

