

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.

Noah Ortiz, 17, was nominated to be a Chronicle-Telegram Kid With Character for being supportive of his peers while being a good role model for them through his respectfulness and responsibility.

He was nominated by his counselor, Gina Eschke, at Brookside High School. She said when her ninth-grade son was placed in a competition against a high school senior, Noah took him under his wing and supported him when the younger boy was new and didn't know anyone.

"I think he looks out for the underdog and he's not afraid to be the only one doing that," Eschke said.



Noah Ortiz
Brookside High School

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Noah's business and College Credit Plus teacher, Tandi Fritz, said he is always respectful and conscientious. But she adds: "Every year he spends his money to pie me in the face to help raise money for the Special Olympics program."

He maintains a high grade point average despite all the things he does outside of school, including lifting weights, working at Walmart and volunteering with the Brookside JR Cardinals youth football league. He also plays football himself, and has been captain of the Brookside varsity team for two years.

His coach, Paul Ferguson, said Noah is an outstanding young man.

"He is always doing the right thing and a student-athlete you can count on," Ferguson said. "Makes a great role model for underclassmen by always making them feel like they belong and willing to help them out when in need."

Fritz said she believes Noah plans on using Cleveland State University's partnership with Lorain County Community College to become a social worker.

Eschke said she could see Noah becoming a counselor or social worker. "I can see him being very successful because of the compassion and respect he has towards others," she said.

Noah lives in Sheffield Lake with his two siblings, Exavier and Josiah, and their parents, Daniel and Neimaliz.

