



Mayor's Youth Commission Awards Announced for the 2nd Quarter 2024 School Year

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENOSHA-- The Mayor's Youth Commission created an awards program to recognize the community's youth for their outstanding personal achievements and the important, positive contributions they make to the Kenosha community. Nomination forms can be obtained in the Mayor's Office, Room 300, in the Municipal Building, or on the internet at www.kenosha.org under the tab Mayor/Administration.

For the second nomination period of the 2023-24 school year, seventeen students met the criteria to be presented with an award. These students were:

Abigail Binon-Truman is a senior at Tremper High School. Abigail is a kind and helpful student and actively seeks out volunteer opportunities including being a teacher's assistant. In addition, she helps with the following: after school culinary events, supporting students in the Special Needs classroom during lunch and Tremper Teammates (an after school group that connects Special Education students with athletic events/athletes to build positive connections with peers and school sports).

Claire Buxbaum is a third grade student at Nash Elementary who raised more than \$2,844 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Kenosha and Racine counties. Claire set up shop during lunch and dinner hours to sell hot dogs and lemonade to patrons. Claire has a heart the size of Texas and is always going above and beyond and is always the first one to help a friend in class that is lonely, struggling and may need encouragement. Her efforts show leadership, compassion and innovation.

Claire embodies the Nash Motto of Kindness, Respect and Hard Work and exhibits the qualities deserving of the Mayor's Award.

Jocelyn Calero is an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School. Jocelyn is an outstanding student at All Saints Catholic School and her academic performance is witnessed by her grades and ongoing recognition of First Honor Roll. Her grades are no surprise as she is a contributor in classroom discussions and takes great pride in her work. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Jocelyn displays leadership qualities with the many extracurricular activities she is involved in. She participates in choir and WSMA Solo and Ensemble, Softball and Volleyball. In addition to rigor in academics at school, All Saints Catholic School lives by an honor code of trust, respect, dignity and forgiveness. Jocelyn is a student that lives by these same virtuous qualities each day. Her peers have recently recognized her generosity and she has been nominated for VIP (Virtues in Practice) Student of the Month for her Stewardship. Jocelyn is generous with her time, talent, and treasures. She will be an asset to her high school next year.

Elisyn Carrillo is a seventh grade student at Washington Middle School. Elli is a wonderful, bright and kind young lady. She is such a good friend to all students and has befriended a student with Autism. Middle school is an age where many students are trying to be "cool" and don't frequently step out of their friend group. Not Ellie! Not only did she accept the friendship from this particular student, she encourages it. She high-fives him in the hallway, gives him hugs when he requests, and always has a smile for him. This act of friendship has done wonders for the special needs student. He enjoys school now. Ellie is in the Honors Section at Washington Middle School and she is a leader and strong advocate for all. Elisyn's accomplishments are worthy of the Mayor's Youth Commission Award because she amplifies kindness, acceptance, and generosity. It is not easy being a middle schooler in 2024. Ellie shines!

Brenna Cebolski is a fifth grader at Stocker Elementary School. Brenna is part of the Safety Patrol Team. She goes above and beyond and has taken an extra role working with special education students in the morning. Brenna arrives early to school to help with the kids and also stays late after school to make sure that the students in the kindergarten class get to where they need to be in the afternoon. When a student drops something she will be the first to help pick it up or if a student is upset, she will try to help figure out a solution. Brenna always is the first to volunteer if extra help is

needed. She has grown into an amazing leader this year and has strong beliefs about fairness and acceptance and accepts everyone just the way they are.

Avery Cozzie is a fifth grader at Nash Elementary School. Avery is an exemplary student. Not only does Avery excel academically, she also goes above and beyond what is considered a good student by taking the initiative to assist students with special needs in the classroom. Avery makes sure the students have the materials they need to be successful to be contributing members of the classroom. Avery also plays softball for Puma Baseball Academy in addition to taking extra pitching lessons beyond normal practices. Avery is also on the School Safety Patrol. Avery takes her duty seriously and greets everyone with a smile at her post. Avery is oftentimes the first person to welcome students every morning. Avery is exactly the type of student who would be worthy of the Mayor's Youth Commission Award.

Payton Eschbach is a Senior at Tremper High School. Payton is always willing to advocate for herself and ask questions when needed. She is a team player and leader. She has taken many honors, AP, and rigorous classes all four years. Payton is willing to challenge herself when it comes to her academics and she is involved in softball.

Gina Ferraro is an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School. Gina is an outstanding student who goes above and beyond. She excels in many activities and is a great role model. She is captain of the Safety Patrol, involved in volleyball and track, and performs in the Spring Musical annually. But most importantly, her writing and speaking skills have been awarded First Place and recognized by local judges. Recently she won writing competitions about "What the U.S. Flag Stands for" and "How the Church can evangelize in the digital age." Gina tries her best and gives it her all. You can count on it! Gina knows her actions impact others, so she tries to be a positive influence on her class. She inspires both students and teachers.

Parker Gemmell is an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School and has been accepted into LakeView Tech with honors. Parker is an exemplary student and is involved in a variety of activities including track, cross country, student council, band, and the middle school musical. Parker strives to do his best at everything he does, and he consistently makes the Honor Roll at All Saints Catholic School. Parker will participate in the Regional Great History Challenge in March, qualification was difficult and he was one of the top finishers at All Saints. Not only does Parker achieve academically,

he is also a giving student who serves Mass at his home parish and at school Masses on a regular basis. The dedication to show up early on Mass days and for training as altar service is commendable.

Kayla Loewen is an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School. Kayla is an exemplary student who academically is on the Honor Roll. She is a member of the All Tournament Team and plays volleyball. She enjoys and excels in sports and exemplifies her sportsmanship in the court and in the classroom. Kayla is also involved in the school choir and is a crew member in the middle school drama and musical club. Kayla is a role model who is dedicated to excelling in her school work and her studies. She is a responsible, committed and a meticulous student who does her tasks dutifully. She is a delightful student.

Eileen (Katie) Lokken is an eleventh grade student at Tremper. Katie is a top-notch student who doesn't hesitate to take the most difficult classes offered at Tremper. She works hard both in and out of the classroom. Katie is in the top 10 of her Junior class and is very involved in clubs and activities, particularly Tremper's Swim and Dive where she is a stand out athlete. She manages to balance academics and extracurriculars effortlessly. She is truly outstanding.

Eduardo Martinez, Jr. is in second grade at Frank Elementary School. Eduardo brings joy to our crew. He is kind, helpful, and respectful. He follows all routines and rules, and he truly does his best to learn all that he can. Being an English Language Learner, he is like a sponge soaking up all of the learning he can and it shows in his grades and state test results. Eduardo is a VIP and a character leader of respect, empathy, self discipline and trustworthiness. Eduardo is a leader in our classroom and truly a role model for his peers.

Leila Mayew is an eighth grader at All Saints Catholic School(ASCS). Leila is a very astute and empathetic young woman who is always looking at ways to improve herself to be a better person. She is kind, compassionate, helpful, passionate, and driven. Leila has grown in both her academic skills and social skills while attending All Saints Catholic School. She is very outgoing, polite and considerate, and is very concerned about her grades, as evidenced by her receiving First Honors Honor Roll (4.0) throughout her entire middle school education. Leila is also actively involved in the school community as well as the outside community of Kenosha. Leila is currently a Mass Helper, serves as a member of the Safety Patrol, participant in the Battle of the Books all three years,

participant in the 40 Book Challenge all three years, participant in the recycling program at school, participant in the essay content, "Proud to be an American", past member of the Student Council, she sang the National Anthem with the choir for the Red Ribbon Ceremony, and Christmas caroled in nursing homes and throughout the All Saints Catholic School neighborhood. Leila has also been involved in the All Saints Catholic School musicals, a participant in the WSMA Solo and Ensemble District Festival, a participant in the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival and chosen as a participant in the WSMA MS Honor Choir this year. She has already reached out to further her musical experience within the Kenosha Community by participating in Kenosha Youth Performing Arts Company (KYPAC) musicals. Leila has continued to demonstrate the importance of her faith by receiving Virtue Cards from teachers throughout middle school thus far. (There are 27 Virtues, and she has collected sets from various middle school teachers). Leila has also been a VIP (Virtue in Practice) Student of the month. Leila was nominated not only for the above mentioned criteria but because she is always the one who goes above and beyond in everything she undertakes.

Madilyn Mitchell is a fifth grade student at Nash Elementary School. Madilyn is always kind and offers to help out students who may be behind or sitting by themselves and always being a positive peer. She is always willing to help with the special education students. Madi makes sure no one is left behind, no one sits alone at lunch and that everyone is included in recess. Madi has a heart of gold and does all these things because she truly cares. The Mayor's Youth Commission Award would be an honor for Madi to show her how special and important she is to many.

Ryson Nelson is a Senior at Tremper. Ryson has impressed in his ability to balance high-level academics at Tremper. He has shown a commitment to giving back to the community throughout his four years of high school, completing over 100 hours of community service his freshman year. Ryson's example of hard work and dedication to others will help grow future leaders at Tremper.

Makena Vignieri is an eighth grade student at All Saints Catholic School. Makena is a part of Student Council, Safety Patrol Captain, Band, and has participated in the school musical, the Crochet Club and the school spelling bee each year. She has continuously been First Honors and one of the VIP students of the month. Outside of school, Makena is an avid reader and rides horses - even competitively. Her goal is to become a veterinarian. Through her accomplishments, Makena displays confidence and leadership qualities. With all that she is involved in, being able to maintain honors is an achievement to be proud of. She has a bright future ahead of her.

Justin Zheng is a Senior at Tremper High School. Justin is near the top of his class because of working so hard at his academics. He plans on studying Biochemistry and Neuroscience to work in the medical field. Justin is also involved in the Key Club, Student Government and Chess Club in addition to working at his family's restaurant.

Cutline: Mayor's Youth Award winners pictured with Mayor Antaramian at the March 4, 2024 meeting of the Common Council

