

Mayor's Youth Commission Awards Announced for 2nd quarter 2021/22 School Year

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For further information contact:
Tammy Conforti, Chairperson
Mayor's Youth Commission
Phone: 262.653.4000

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 2021-22 school year, eight students met the criteria to be presented with an award. These students were:

Jaxson Anderson is an eighth grader at St. Joseph Catholic Academy who was nominated by teacher Laura Kononchuk. Jaxson has come incredibly far within a year of being at St. Joseph's; in addition to making good grades, he makes every effort to ensure younger students feel included and welcome. Jaxson also serves as president of the Student Council and is a member of the Safety Patrol. He offers assistance in many ways at the school, including raising and lowering the flag every day regardless of the weather.

Savannah Basley is a third grader at Nash Elementary School who was nominated by Dean of Students, Lacy Dusak. In her nomination letter, Ms. Dusak stated that Savannah is truly a student that every teacher would love to have in their classroom, adding that she is one of the kindest and most compassionate children she knows. Savannah is someone who can always be counted on to help other students and to make kind and respectful choices. A high achiever who seeks out additional opportunities to further her learning, Savannah is a wonderful role model for the school *and* community.

Aurelia Despin, an eighth grader at All Saints School, was nominated for her academic accomplishments, strong work ethic and her good will toward other students. Aurelia has achieved high honors throughout middle school. She has been an active member with the Student Council, Safety Patrol and Forensics, as well as basketball and track teams. She has

been a VIP Student of the Month and D.A.R.E. contest winner. Aurelia is known to help other students understand difficult concepts and is a good listener when a friend needs someone to talk to. Her dedication, diligence and good will are accomplishments worthy of this award.

Aniyah Ervin, a senior at Bradford High School, was nominated by school counselor Robin Mars. Mr. Mars states that Aniyah has been very involved in Bradford's Key Club, her church and as a community activist. However, he feels that her time as president of African American Youth Initiative for the past two years, through such uncertain times, is what makes her especially worthy of this honor. While she has been recognized publicly for giving supportive speeches within our community, she also finds it just as important to be sure her fellow peers at Bradford feel safe and supported. Aniyah is a reminder to students that they do have a voice, and their role is to look out, listen and care for one another. Aniyah's mission is to create community within the school.

Andrew Geissman, an eighth grader at All Saints School, was nominated for demonstrating patriotism, academic achievement and leadership. Andrew's school activities include student council, safety patrol and choir. He also had a lead role in the school musical, and is known as a committed, dedicated student. Andrew achieved First Honors on the Honor roll and, in the midst of the pandemic, is known as someone who uplifts others through his self-giving character.

Matteo Isenberg, an eighth grader at All Saints School, was nominated by teacher Francesca Capelli. Matteo is a generous teammate in soccer, basketball and baseball. Ms. Capelli also noted his diligence, kindness and academic achievements. Matteo earned a 4.0 GPA and First Academic Honors while facing the challenge of attending school virtually last fall, while classmates were able to attend in-person. He maintained his positive attitude throughout, and even took advantage of meeting deadlines early. Everyone likes Matteo because he is caring, empathetic and respectful.

Ismelda Ochoa Martinez, a second grader at Frank Elementary School, was nominated by teacher Julie Neumaier, who remarked on Ismelda's enthusiasm for learning as an inspiration for other students. Ismelda is a native Spanish speaker, who learned English quickly since beginning school at Frank this year. She also is a talented artist and writer, who has created several of her own books with positive messages, including "Kamila the Hero." Ismelda always shows that she cares about the well-being of her community.

Viammy Truong, an eighth grader at All Saints Catholic School, was nominated by Theology teacher Suzette Bilotti as an outstanding student and also for her strong integrity and caring nature. Viammy has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and High Honors and is an active contributor in class discussions. She is a member of the ASCS choir and enjoys creating art. She assists other students by creating study guides and is a leader in the classroom. Viammy is to be commended for her good work ethic and will be an asset to her high school next year.