

Dear members of the Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Michael Whirlow for the Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship. I have known him through his leadership in the National Honor Society. Mikey was inducted into the Hempfield chapter in the spring of 2019 and was elected to the Vice-President position. As the NHS advisor I have worked closely with him throughout the last year. The four pillars of NHS membership are scholarship, service, leadership and character. Mikey's high school career has exemplified these characteristics. Scholarship is clearly demonstrated by his academic transcript; he has taken an extremely difficult course load throughout his high school years including 9 AP courses and his grades have been outstanding. However, his academic record alone does not accurately reflect his impact on those around him.

Mikey's service, leadership and character shine through his many school activities, clubs and athletics. He is a positive force - always smiling and upbeat. He spreads joy to many situations and is able to get others around him to smile and laugh. There are two events that really stand out to me as examples of Mikey's character and leadership. The first is the Santa Breakfast sponsored by NHS for community children. Mikey volunteered to play "Santa" and he took his role seriously. He wanted to make sure that he provided the children in attendance a great memory. He consulted other teachers for pointers, practiced his "lines" and made sure that he knew what to say and not say. Every child that came had an amazing experience! Mikey was so patient; he took the time to really listen to what each child said and made each one feel valued and respected. Even the timid ones came close enough so that he could hear their whispers and make sure he left them with a smile on their face. I wish you could see the pictures from that morning; his caring heart is fully evident in each one.

Mikey's service and care is not just directed to young children. Recently, he became aware of a student suffering from some severe health challenges. He immediately wanted to do something to help this student and her family. He was the primary planner and organizer of a coordinated effort to raise money. Within two weeks he had planned a huge bake sale and candy gram sale to "spread the love" on Valentine's day. He was able to motivate other students to participate and coordinated with several other teachers and clubs. He was very organized and did a great job communicating to everyone involved. The final fundraising total was \$800. Without his leadership, support, organization and enthusiasm the event would not have been as successful.

Michael is an outstanding choice for this scholarship and is an excellent representative of the Hempfield Area school and community. I am confident that he will continue to provide positive encouragement, leadership and service as he moves on to a new college community. I look forward to hearing about his future successes.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rebecca Franklin  
Hempfield National Honor Society Advisor