

Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award

Chris “Champ” Miller

Congratulations to Champ Miller for being honored as the Sacred Heart Academy Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award recipient for December 2025. Every other month, the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club honors one middle school student (6th -8th grade) from each of the area middle schools with the Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award. Most recently, Champ Miller earned this award for Sacred Heart Academy. Champ is the son of Brooks and Gretchen Miller, who are parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish.

Champ was nominated by his sixth grade language arts and math teacher, Mrs. Julie O’Brien. In the nomination, Mrs. O’Brien said, “Champ is one of those students who consistently has a positive, sunny attitude! He works hard, asks questions, and finds ways to help. Even though he is a new student to Sacred Heart this year, Champ is a leader among his peers, because he encourages other to work hard and is genuinely happy for other people's accomplishments and good fortune. Champ is definitely a Sisson Shining Star due to his work ethic, willingness to help others, and look for the positive in any situation.

The Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award is named to honor the legacy of James “Jim” Sisson Jr. Jim was a life-time member of the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club, and always carried copies of the Optimist Creed in his pocket to share with others. Jim was always helping others, supporting students, and volunteering. Jim lived his life with integrity, kindness, and generosity. Requirements for nomination specify that the nominee must be in 6th, 7th or 8th grade should exude the traits of optimism as written below in The Optimist Creed:

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.



Above, Champ is pictured with his parents, Brooks & Gretchen Miller, at the award presentation on December 19, 2025.

To wear a cheerful countenance always and to give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear,
and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Congratulations, Champ! This honor is well-deserved!