

## Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award February 2024 – Amelia Ruiz

Congratulations to Amelia Ruiz for being honored as the Sacred Heart Academy Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award recipient for February 2024. Every other month, the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club honors one middle school student (6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade) from each of the area middle schools as the recipient of this award. Amelia is the daughter of Herman and Angela Ruiz, who are parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish.

Amelia was nominated by sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Wendy Lemke. Mrs. Lemke shared, “Amelia always looks on the bright side! She finds the good in everyTHING and everyONE. She is genuine, caring, loving, and lives out the WWJD question!”

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.
- 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, Amelia! This honor is well deserved.



*Above, Amelia is pictured with Lori McConnon, from the Optimist Club, and her mother, Angela Ruiz, at the February 21 award presentation.*