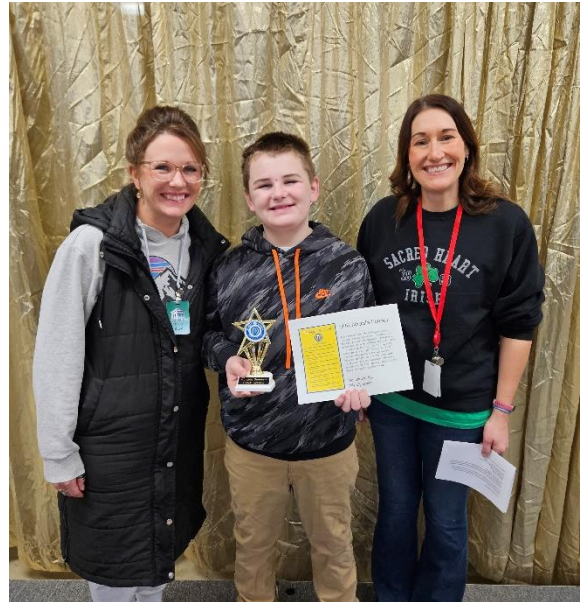


## **Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award Lyle Barnett – February 2025**

Congratulations to Lyle Barnett for being honored as the Sacred Heart Academy Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award recipient for February 2025. 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 with the Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award. Most recently, Lyle Barnett earned this award for Sacred Heart Academy. Lyle is the son of Rebecca (Jarrad) Martinez and Christopher O'Conner.

Lyle was nominated by two of his sixth grade teachers, Mrs. Wendy Lemke and Mrs. Julie O'Brien. In the original nomination, Mrs. Lemke shared, "Lyle is new to Sacred Heart this year, and he finds joy in everything -- his new classmates, his teachers, and even his classwork and lessons at school. But most of all, Lyle loves the Lord, and he can't wait to go to Mass every Thursday to be extra-close to Him! "Lyle" rhymes with "smile," and that makes perfect sense. Lyle exudes happiness and pleasure with the people and world around him on a daily basis. His sunny demeanor makes Lyle a great candidate for the Sisson Shining Star optimist award!"



*Above, Lyle is pictured with his mother, Rebecca Martinez (left) and Lori McConnon (right) with the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club.*

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, Lyle! This honor is well deserved.