

Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award May 2024 Emma McConnon

Congratulations to Emma McConnon for being honored as the Sacred Heart Academy Sisson Shining Star Optimist Award recipient for May 2024. Every other month, the Mt. Pleasant Optimist Club honors one middle school student (6th -8th grade) from each of the area middle schools as the recipient of this award. Emma is the daughter of Michael and Lori McConnon, who are parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish.

Emma was nominated by two of her sixth-grade teachers, Mrs. Julie O'Brien and Mrs. Wendy Lemke. The nomination read:

“There are so many reasons why Emma is a Shining Star, but here are a few:

1. Emma has a kind and loving heart - I have never seen Emma without a smile. Nothing seems to dim her sunny disposition!
2. Emma is a good friend - she makes people feel special because she is a good listener.
3. Emma is a hard worker - she does her classwork without complaint and always tries her very best.
4. Emma has a great sense of humor - I never knew she could do different "voices" and "accents" until I heard her make friends giggle on the playground.
5. Emma is truly happy for her classmates' successes. She celebrates their victories right along with them! She doesn't make time to criticize or worry about mistakes - she just smiles and keeps on striving to be the best she can be.

It has been a privilege to be Emma's teacher this year – (we) look forward to watching her grow and thrive in the future!”

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:



Emma is pictured with her mother, Lori McConnon, at the award presentation on May 29, 2024.

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, Emma! You are a shining star!