

## Katz-Whittle Foundation, with the McIntosh County School System

# Golden Rule Award Winners

Students who exhibited the Golden Rule of "doing unto others as you would have them do to you" were recognized at a special ceremony and reception at the McIntosh County Board of Education meeting on May 9, and winners were presented monetary gifts by the Katz-Whittle Foundation Inc., that sponsors the event with the School system.

The awards are as follows:



**Peyton Waters**  
Senior of the Year

Peyton Waters, left, was named the 2022 MCA Senior of the Year and received a check for \$3,000 from the Katz-Whittle Foundation, presented by Kely Howe.

Making the announcement of the winner, McIntosh School Superintendent Jim Pulci said, "Our 2022 McIntosh Academy Senior of the Year is described as a person who leads by example. This student is a great role model for younger students and is good to them. This student works hard in and out of the classroom. When interviewing this student, it was said, that is important to be kind to others, because you never know what others are going through. This student is actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities in the school environment, but also in the community. It is evident that this student is giving back to others in a variety of ways and is having an impact on those around him."

**Jarod Trafton**  
McIntosh County Student of the Year;  
and Todd-Grant SOTY

Jarod Trafton, a Todd-Grant fourth grader, right, was awarded not only the Elementary Student of the Year, which has a \$75 award, but he was also named the McIntosh County Student of the Year that provides a \$250 award. Kely Howe with Katz-Whittle Foundation presented the award.

Todd-Grant Elementary Principal Sandra Ryals said, "Our 2022 McIntosh County Student of the Year is a perfect example of The Golden Rule. This student is described as an absolute joy to teach. He is always eager to answer and is very attentive during instruction. He has great enthusiasm and is a go-giver. This student is a gem, who exemplified kindness like no other. He has offered use of his personal items to other students when he has seen friends in need."

Jarod was also described as an "absolute jewel of kindness. One example of this exemplary behavior happened when one of his classmates was in an embarrassing situation. Jarod noticed what was happening and came to the rescue so that the situation didn't get worse. This was a true act of kindness in helping a friend in need."



**Emily Ataway**  
MCMS Student of the Year



McIntosh County Middle School Student of the Year is Emily Ataway, an eighth grader. MCMS Principal Scott Brooker stated, "Our winner deserves special recognition because she has proven herself time-and-time again to be a student of the highest moral caliber. Considerate, respectful and kind, she embodies the ideals of the Golden Rule each day. She's incredibly intelligent and also motivated, yet still takes the time to help other students who may not be quite so fortunate. She handles conflict very calmly and influences others to do the same. Her care extends

to those much younger, as well. She has been seen multiple times guiding small students in the after school program."

**Kenadee Jones**  
MCA Student of the Year;  
and Senior of the Year Runner Up

Kenadee Jones, a MCA senior, right, has been named the 2022 High School Student of the Year. Board Chairman Mossy Brigham had this to say about Kenadee, "Our winner is described as an exceptional young lady and outstanding student. She is well-respected and trusted by her peers. She is a positive and respectful person to all those around her—adults and students alike. She is kind and



compassionate to others, willing to assist, all while maintaining high school and college classes with a high GPA. She displays maturity and is focused on her future. Giving back to the school is important to this student as she volunteers in numerous ways to help serve others." Kenadee received a \$750 award for Senior of the Year and \$75 for MCA Student of the Year.

**Gabriel Green**  
Senior of the Year Runner-Up

Gabriel Green, right, was presented a check for \$750 from Kely Howe with Katz-Whittle Foundation for being recognized as a runner-up for MCA Senior of the Year award.



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**Destiny Nazzrie**

**McIntosh County Paragon Award & TG Winner**

**Heather Spannuth and Annette Williford are Paragon Winners**

*Destiny Nazzrie, second from left, was named the McIntosh County Paragon Award winner for teachers in the McIntosh County School System. She is a teacher at Todd-Grant Elementary School. She received the Don and Marjorie Varnedoe Paragon Award in the amount of \$1,500, presented by Kelly Howe, Katz-Whittle Foundation.*

*The Paragon teacher from MCMS is Heather Spannuth, second from right, and MCA Paragon teacher is Annette Williford, right. Kelly Howe, left, presented the awards.*

*The description provided for awarding Nazzrie this award is as follows: "Our 2022 McIntosh County Paragon Award winner is described as someone who is an amazing teammate and an even better friend. The teacher has developed a sense of family and community within her classroom. This teacher is always willing to lend a helping hand, and said that it's all about being willing to do more for other people than you do for yourself. It is evident that she has a servant's heart and tries to instill the Golden Rule qualities and life skills into her students by making them reflect -- Are you a good friend? Are you a good person? Are you somebody that you would want to be around? Our winner makes a habit of writing positive notes to her students and ensuring that they feel loved."*



**Jerry Mangrum**

**McIntosh County Staff Award Winner  
Troy Spannuth, Mariah Bryant Staff Award Winners**

*Jerry Mangrum, center, staff member at Todd-Grant, received the McIntosh County Staff Award in the amount of \$1000, presented by Kelly Howe, Katz-Whittle Foundation. Troy Spannuth, right, received the MCMS staff award, and Mariah Bryant, not present, received the MCA staff award.*

*When the award was presented, this is what was said about Mangrum: "Colleagues say our 2022 McIntosh County Staff Award winner is the perfect example of someone who demonstrates the Golden Rule ideals. This staff member always has a smile on his face and treats each person he encounters with kindness. He has a heart of gold for the students and is a tremendous role model. He goes above and beyond in making students feel supported through various fundraisers or purchasing ice cream for students who don't have ice cream money. He demonstrates an unflinching desire to provide a school environment that is welcoming, clean, nurturing, as well as safe. Our winner has a way of encouraging those around him to be better."*



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