



**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
BROOKLYN MARRIOTT
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS:**

“Building Community Through Collaboration and Partnerships”

Student Awards

Dr. Jack Bloomfield Youth Leadership Award

Brianna Rizzo, P.S. 232Q.....Principal Naviha Paz

Kaylyn Clark, I.S. 62.....Principal Marielena Ciprianosantiag

Dr. Dolores Beckham Arts Award

Dance Award

Isabella Morales, MS 936K.....Principal Frank Proudfoot

Vocal Music Award

Anabelle Espiritusanto Lendi, IS 131X.....Principal Monique Mason

Visual Arts Award

AnnaMaria Iannone, PS/MS 146Q.....Principal Danielle Cross

Visual Arts Award

Jade Kam, PS/IS 48R.....Principal Allison Odonnell



Youth Leadership Essay Dr. Jack Bloomfield Award Winner

Brianna Rizzo, P.S. 232Q

Leadership is such an important skill to have because "Leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders" - Tom Peters. I am a middle school girl named Brianna Rizzo. I have a passion for my leadership in the arts. I consider myself an "Artist" which is basically an activist and leader who expresses their important cause through art. I am co-president of P.S. 232 student council and I spearhead many different school and outside organization initiatives. I have also been part of Girl Scouts for seven years and earned the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette could earn, the Silver Award, for my activism and leadership skills.

To start off, I continue to be a leader with Girl Scouts. Earning my Silver Award was very challenging. You have to do 50 plus hours of community service and create a take action project that is sustainable. I thought of bringing more arts into the schools. This is how my school's student council accomplished a lot with the arts and now we even added the importance of art in our student council mission statement. As a leader and Girl Scout you always have to use your resources wisely. Even though my school does not have many resources we used paper and markers which we used to make postcards for refugees. It turned into money to help the refugees to get their necessities through "Student's Rebuild". The Bezos Family Foundation donated \$10 per postcard and we raised \$10,000! Then, with bottle caps we made a mural to bring awareness for people who don't have clean water. We turned that into

clean water for families in South Sudan. Students donated money to have their initials on the bottle caps used for the mural and we sent the money through “The Iron Giraffe Challenge.” One other thing I did was make beaded charms for those who suffer from home insecurity and it helped improve their mental health. I brought these ideas to my school's student council and inspired others to help lead the way. With a \$200 Girl Scout scholarship we bought supplies to continue this activism.

However, even beyond Girl Scouts and student council I lead intergenerational beaded workshops at Grinnell Library. To do this I prepared pattern pages and steps. This takes lots of patience and skill to be able to lead these lessons. It was amazing to see after teaching the first group that people kept teaching each other how to do the pattern- more leaders! Each person made two of the beaded stars I taught so they could keep one and donate one to the library. Using the stars people left, I strung them together and made an art installation in the library to show everyone of all ages coming together with art.

When I’m older as a career choice I hope to become a teacher because not just at the library but even at my school I continue to lead lessons. At school I have collaborated with the 3rd and 4th grades to teach ELA lessons and to explain student council middle school initiatives. Even in my own class I led a mind mirror lesson for the book we were reading and even NYC Schools highlighted me on their Twitter page.

Overall, these are some of the many examples of how I showed leadership in my school, through Girl Scouts, outside organizations, and beyond my local community. I will continue to pursue my activism and make a difference. The best part of this is I have inspired other people along the way and they too became leaders!



Youth Leadership Essay

Dr. Jack Bloomfield Award Winner

Kaylyn Clark, I.S. 62

My name is Kaylyn Clark. I go to Ditmas I.S. 62 and I am a 8th grader in class 850. I play major roles in the school as a friend, classmate, peer, but most importantly as a 8th grade leader. My specific role as a student leader is fundraising, spreading awareness, and helping the community and school. As a leader, it is my job to make sure everyone in the school is comfortable. Another job as a leader is to be a role model for my peers and the future generations so that there can be more leaders to fight against the other world problems.

I would use my leadership skills to reimagine the future by educating people on different world topics to possibly change their point-of-view to something that could help the community or the world. I hope for a future where there is no more violence and where everyone is equal and have fair opportunities.

The organizations I was in are Youth Leadership Council Network at NYC Junior Ambassadors Club, Student Leadership, and Starr leaders in the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies STARR leaders group. A description of detail activities that I am involved in are the Youth Leadership program, Junior ambassadors, Ditmas, GSA - Inclusion for ALL club, and Ditmas Trends. The leadership role I play in these activities is being a leader to help my fellow peers in my community and school.

Me being a leader in the Youth Leadership program, Junior ambassadors, GSA - Inclusion for ALL club, and Ditmas Trends made me a better person, leader, friend, and peer. It made me learn how to fight for what is right, learn

with confidence, and work on my weaknesses and turn them into strengths. Being a leader in these programs built me into the person I am today. These programs made me have confidence in myself and my ideas. They made me realize how good it is to help go into the direction of solving world problems.

My participation in these activities shaped my views as a leader because I never thought middle schoolers could ever do so much. As Junior ambassadors we went to United Nations to talk about our project. We met the mayor and set up a GoFundMe that raised \$270 out of our \$220 goal. We also met the ambassador of Jamaica and had a sit down conversation with him. We also fundraised teddy grams and everyone in the school looked really happy to do this. It brought people closer because it was during Valentines day. We also participated in the leaves, cocoon, and butterflies project where the whole school talked about their experiences in the school and how they liked the school. All of these times helped me realize it doesn't matter how old you are, you can do anything if you keep trying and believe, you can do it.

I would use these leadership skills to re-imagine the future by educating others on world topics, organizing events where people can connect with one another, and by fighting for a future where there is no violence and where there is equality for everyone. I would use my leadership skills to work in the justice system or the UN. I would work in the UN because I could help people going to war have peace. I would also work in the justice system because I could get justice for people who got injustice and for people who need justice to be served who didn't get it. If I had one chance to use my leadership skills I would help people in need.



**DR. DOLORES BECKHAM
ARTS AWARD**

Presented To:

Isabella Morales

MS 936K ARTS OFF 3RD

for

DANCE

Thank you for you outstanding
creativity.

2024



**DR. DOLORES BECKHAM
ARTS AWARD**

Presented To:

Anabelle Espiritusanto Lendi

IS 131X ALBERT EINSTEIN

for

VOCALS

Thank you for you outstanding
creativity.

2024



**DR. DOLORES BECKHAM
ARTS AWARD**

Presented To:

Anna Maria Jannone

PS/MS 146Q HOWARD BEACH

for

VISUAL ARTS

Thank you for you outstanding
creativity.

2024



**DR. DOLORES BECKHAM
ARTS AWARD**

Presented To:

Jade Kam

PS/IS 48R WILLIAM G. WILCOX

for

VISUAL ARTS

Thank you for you outstanding
creativity.

2024