

Integrity in the Class of 2021

By Lily Dominguez

If you search up the definition of integrity on Google, the first definition that comes up is “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.” The second definition is “the state of being whole and undivided.” So, if there are two meanings, what really is integrity? When I hear the word, I think of someone that I can trust, no matter what. I can trust someone with integrity even when no one is watching them. To go further with this, I wanted to learn who in my class, the eighth grade, shows the most integrity. To find this out, I asked four of my classmates who they thought had the most integrity in the Class of 2021. Then, I asked them to describe this person.

The first eighth grader I asked gave me a great answer. They said “I think Donovan has a lot of integrity.” He was described as “trustworthy, always honest, and very nice.” Being honest all the time is an extremely important part of having integrity. It is something really difficult to accomplish, especially as a middle schooler. The second eighth grader I asked picked “Audrey, because she’s always kind to people and never acts like somebody is below her in any way. She has lots of talents and strengths, but she doesn’t flaunt them, she uses them to help other people.” I definitely agree with this. Ever since I’ve known her, Audrey has consistently lifted everybody else up and been an overall good person.

After that, Koen was described as “always [having] a kind soul and never [doing] wrong. He is a sweet person and is always smiling and is always kind to everyone.” Koen demonstrates the part of integrity that is about *always* embodying honesty and compassion. As my classmate said, no matter who is watching, who is around, or what the circumstances are, Koen has integrity. In my opinion, our school, as a whole, has a lot of integrity. One of my fellow classmates that stands out to me is Lauren. She has been there for me since third grade, and I know she would help anyone without any hesitation. Lauren is the most trustworthy person I know.

Lastly, the final classmate I asked said that our teacher, Ms. Rentz always teaches with integrity. “She teaches our classes amazingly and speaks honestly in the lessons. Ms. Rentz is a great teacher and you can tell she loves teaching, even though we can’t be in class.” So, yes, Donovan, Audrey, Koen, Lauren, and Ms. Rentz have integrity, but you can too. All it takes is trying your best to be an honest person. Maybe one day, someone will appreciate you for the integrity you possess.