

9TH GRADE WINNER:

JULIAN V.

ALLEN VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL

When I think of the kindest person I know, I instantly think of my former social studies and math teacher, Mr. White. He goes beyond teaching lessons in the classroom, he teaches kindness, patience and faith in others, and great sport knowledge. For those reasons and a lot other ones, I believe Mr. White truly deserves the "Kindest Kansas Citian" distinction.

His mentorship and classroom support is always on point. Mr. White never gives up on his students, even if they seem at their lowest. If someone is struggling in math or doesn't want to ask questions publicly, he takes his time to make sure they understand and feel confident. He used to stay after school for tutoring, even during his tutoring lessons, he would check in on the students. He would still check in on his students not only about grades, but how we are doing as people outside of school. He would never judge you, and will always see the best in you. Conversations with him can go deep, which shows signs of trust from him.

His personality and the actions he takes makes everyone feel welcomed. He really enjoys sports, and can share stories that make us laugh as students. Sometimes it can be the small moments, like talking about food or cheering on our favorite sports teams, that show how he can build real relationships with his students. His class always feels like a safe space to me, and a positive environment where everyone belongs.

To me, Mr. White is a role model for me and the class. He lives by strong values. His belief in treating others with respect, compassion, and patience inspires not only me, but other students he has taught. He teaches us to do the right thing even when no one is watching, and he shows that kindness in every interaction with him. Its teachers and individuals like him that have a positive impact on your life, and I certainly won't take the memories of him for granted.

Because of his encouragement, I feel more confident in myself as a student and as an individual. Mr. White shows kindness not only through his words, but through his actions every single day, he has made a lasting difference in my life and the lives of many students and faculty, and that is why he deserves to be recognized as the Kindest Kansas Citian.