

# Grade 8 Awards Criteria

(Approved by Rumson BOE 4/27/16)



Grade 8 staff will recognize students, by subject, in two distinct areas: commitment and excellence. Please note, when average is listed in the criteria this is defined as the mean.

## English Language Arts

*One Academic Award for grade level and two commitment awards (one per ELA teacher), totaling three awards for ELA*

### **Excellence in Engagement Award (one per ELA teacher)**

This award is given to the student who has demonstrated hard work, diligence, independence, and an eagerness to apply the strategies and skills of reading and writing. This student comes to class everyday wholeheartedly prepared to work.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award (one per grade level)**

This award is given to the student with the highest English GPA in this eighth year; if two or more students share the same GPA, the grade 8 test average (final novel units) will differentiate the recipient.

## Math

*One Academic Award per course (four courses) and three commitment awards (one per Math teacher), totaling seven awards for Math*

### **Excellence in Engagement Award (one per Math teacher)**

This award is given to the students who consistently demonstrate a desire to push themselves, regardless of their scores. These students exhibit a positive attitude, frequent classroom participation, completion of all activities to the best of their ability, good work habits, and excellent classroom behavior. They lead and reflect the importance of education by the way they conduct themselves on a daily basis.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award (one per course)**

This award is given to the student with the highest math GPA in this 8th grade year, per course. One award will be given for the Algebra II, Geometry, Algebra I, and Pre-algebra classes. If two or more students share the same GPA, the quarterly average will be used to determine the recipient.

## Science (two total)

### **Excellence in Engagement Award**

This award is given to the student who demonstrates a commitment to the subject of science through his/her independent engagement in science investigations, exemplary experimental design throughout the school year, and commitment to science as exemplified by attendance at various extra curricular science opportunities that have been offered this year. This student has demonstrated passion through diligent work completion and participation.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award**

This award is given to the student with the highest science GPA in their 8th grade year. If two or more students share the same GPA, the grade 8 test average will be used to determine the recipient.

## Social Studies (two total)

### **Excellence in Engagement Award**

This award recognizes the student who consistently demonstrates a passion for history which is expressed through a positive attitude, frequent classroom participation, and insightful contributions that inspire other students in the class. Additionally, this student will complete all assignments to the best of his or her ability and display excellent work habits.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award**

This award is given to the student with the highest social studies GPA in their 8th grade year. If two or more students share the same GPA, the grade 8 test average will be used to determine the recipient.

## Spanish (two total)

### **Excellence in Engagement Award**

This award is given to a student who exemplifies the characteristics of a dedicated language learner. Aware of his or her own proficiency level, he or she strives to improve by producing more language with increased accuracy. The student is a sympathetic listener and supportive conversation partner. Because he or she knows the importance of visual cues such as hand gestures and facial expressions, his or her attention in class is unwavering. This student hones these skills outside of the classroom by finding and making opportunities to use the language in context.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award**

This award is given to the student with the highest Spanish GPA in their 8th grade year. If two or more students share the same GPA, the student with the highest proficiency level, as defined by ACTFL standards, will receive the award.

## **French (two total)**

### **Excellence in Engagement Award**

This award is given to the student that exhibits a love of learning a language, a desire to do well, and has consistently made efforts to use the language on a daily basis both inside and outside of the classroom.

### **Excellence in Achievement Award**

This award is given to the student with the highest French GPA in their 8th grade year. If two or more students share the same GPA, the student with the highest proficiency level, as defined by ACTFL standards, will receive the award.

## **Health (two total)**

Two students will be awarded the Health Award based upon the following qualities:  
Scholastically Sound - maintains a 92 average or higher, and works to their potential  
Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic  
Class Leader - supports the instructional effort of the class and is responsible, participates in class  
Role Model - sets a good example, provides support for the success of others

## **Physical Education (two total)**

One boy and one girl will be awarded the Physical Education Award based upon the following qualities:  
Scholastically sound - maintains a 92 average or higher, and works to their potential  
Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic  
Class Leader - supports the instructional effort of the class  
Role Model - sets a good example, achieves high levels of individual fitness and provides support for the success of others

## **Technology (two total)**

Two students will be awarded the Technology Award based upon their interest in the subject, overall inquiry in technology above and beyond peers, participation in technology projects both inside and outside of the classroom, and the following qualities:  
Scholastically Sound - maintains a 92 average or higher, demonstrates technology practices during class, and works to their potential  
Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic  
Class Leader - supports the instructional effort of the class and is responsible, participates in class  
Role Model - sets a good example, provides support for the success of others

## Visual and Performing Arts

### Music (four total)

#### Music Award

Two students will be awarded the Music Award based upon a high interest in the subject and the following qualities:

Scholastically sound - maintains a 92 average or higher, works to their potential, goes above and beyond on class projects

Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic

Class Leader - supports the instructional effort of the class and is responsible, participates in class

Role Model - sets a good example and provides support for the success of others

#### Sarah Beels Dunikoski Award

This award is presented to two students who have demonstrated excellence in the school's extra-curricular vocal or music program. The students have participated in the choir for three years and have demonstrated excellent character.

### Drama (two total)

Two students will be awarded the Drama Award based upon a high interest in the subject, participation in the Drama Club, and the following qualities:

Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic during rehearsals

Role Model - sets a good example and provides support for the success of others

Performance - outstanding contributions to the Drama Club performance

### Band (three total)

#### Band Award

This award is given to two students who have been a member of the band program for at least one year, shown consistent musical growth, and exhibit these qualities:

Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, and enthusiastic during rehearsals

Role Model - sets a good example and provides support for the success of others

Performance - outstanding contributions to the band in rehearsals and programs

#### Jazz Award

This award is given to one student who has been a member of the Jazz Ensemble for at least one year, shown consistent musical growth, and exhibits these qualities:

Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic during rehearsals

Role Model - sets a good example and provides support for the success of others

Performance - outstanding musicianship and contributions to the ensemble in rehearsals and programs

### **Art (three total)**

#### **Lynn Reinalda Creative Spirit Award**

This award is given to one student who displays artistic drive and passion, sees every assignment as an opportunity to push his or her work further, and has shown outstanding effort and enthusiasm in art both in and outside of class.

#### **General Art Award**

This award is given to two students who exhibit technical strength as well as a highly developed sense of creativity in artworks, and have consistently displayed a positive attitude and a continued interest in developing his or her skills in visual arts both in and out of class. Students must also possess the following qualities:

Scholastically sound - maintains a 92 average or higher, works to their potential, goes above and beyond on class projects

Outstanding character - positive, cooperative, honest, confident, enthusiastic

Class Leader - supports the instructional effort of the class and is responsible, participates in class

Role Model - sets a good example and provides support for the success of others

### **Borden Award for Excellence (two total)**

Awarded to two honor students, as defined by maintaining a 92 or higher average in all core academic subjects (inclusive of World Language) during all marking periods in their grade 8 year as well as the following qualities:

-a student at Forrestdale School for a period of more than one year

-demonstrates a cooperative attitude towards teachers and peers

-displays good citizenship within the school and community

-embodies leadership qualities

### **DAR Good Citizenship Award (two total)**

Awarded to two students, one boy and one girl, who fulfill the qualifications of honor, service, courage, leadership, and patriotism.

### **Rumson Education Foundation 21st Century Learner Award (one)**

Awarded to the student who strives to meet his or her fullest potential, has a vision for education and a passion for learning. The 21st Century Learner exceeds in the three C's:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity and innovation

### **Rumson PTO Award (two total)**

Presented to two students who represent helpful, cooperative, and reliable behavior and strive to reach their own potential both in and out of the classroom.

### **President's Award for Educational Excellence**

Presented to all students who achieve academic success in the classroom as defined by:

- maintaining a 92 or higher in all classes, inclusive of specials, during seventh and eighth grade
- receiving a score of highly distinguished on PARCC in Grade 7 for both English Language Arts and Mathematics

### **Attendance Awards**

#### **Michael K. Sullivan Award**

This award is presented to any student who has completed eight years of elementary education with perfect attendance.

#### **Jane Talmage Perfect Attendance Award**

This award is presented to any student who has completed eighth grade with perfect attendance.

### **Nancy Guthrie One Student Makes A Difference Award (one)**

This award is presented to a student who demonstrates through his or her action, attitude, and behavior an exemplary sense of respect for fellow students and teachers, and who goes out of the way to be helpful and caring to the students and faculty of Forrestdale School.

## **Alex J. Shanley Award (one)**

This award is presented to a student who has persevered academically in spite of setbacks. Despite various difficulties during his or her life, this student has continued to overcome obstacles in an effort to achieve academically.