

Be here. Be respectful. Be responsible. Be your best. These are the four expectations I introduced to my students on day one. This year, Richie met and exceeded all of my expectations.

When it comes to being "here," for me, that doesn't just mean coming to class, but also being present in the class. Richie answers my questions when everyone is either hiding their phone under the table or zoning me out.

When it comes to being respectful, for me, that means respecting your peers, teacher, self, and materials. In a class of 13 with 10 of those being boys, Richie stands out as one of the kind and respectful ones, not only because I can trust him in a group to work hard, but also he laughs at my bad jokes.

When it comes to being responsible, for me, that means taking care of your business. Richie does what he says he's going to do, like get his work done when he has to leave early for lacrosse. He also knows when to do the right thing, even if it's in the form of a note on the back of his homework.

When it comes to being your best, for me, that means to try and give your best effort. Richie is always unafraid and willing to put his best foot forward. He challenges himself to think for himself rather than repeat what I say.

Because of all of these things Richie did this year, I am honored to give him this award out of my 100 or so students. Thank you Richie for being you - I wish you the best of luck in American Literature next year!