

VARSITY // BRANDS

SCHOOL SPIRIT

AWARDS



Principal of Principle Award Winner



Fort Walton Beach High School John Spolski, Fort Walton Beach, FL

Principal John Spolski ensures that every student at Fort Walton Beach High School has the opportunity to engage in school activities through participation, social media, pep rallies, athletics, clubs, and events. He makes school spirit a priority, and will go to great lengths to keep students excited and engaged. His efforts have earned Fort Walton Beach High School high honors from the Florida Department of Education, who consistently give the school an A+ rating. Professional Counselor Dr. Linda Borie Dugan explains, "Principal Spolski is a principal of great principles but most of all he is an incredible leader that creates a school spirit that leaves a positive imprint in every student's school experience."



Finalist



Cass Technical High School | Lisa Phillips, Detroit, MI

Principal Lisa Phillips has been at the helm of Cass Technical High School in Detroit, MI since 2010. Principal Phillips' successes are numerous, as she has successfully created and expanded several invaluable educational programs at Cass Tech. These programs include the STEM Education Project, the University of Michigan "Doctors of Tomorrow" program, the Cass Tech Greenhouse and the Wayne County Dual enrollment program, which allows students to earn college credit during their high school tenure. Assistant Principal Lori Singleton explains, "Principal Phillips has a proven track record of improving every educational arena she embarks upon. She is the true embodiment of an exceptional principal."



Kittatiny Regional High School | Brian Bosworth, Newton, NJ

Principal Brian Bosworth demonstrates an undying commitment to both academics and athletics at Kittatiny Regional High School. This is his first year as principal, though he has spent over 10 years teaching English at Kittatiny. Students and staff alike describe him as a "breath of fresh air." He has made many positive changes, including updates to the school's social media guidelines and the installment of the school's first student section. He leads students and staff by example, encouraging enthusiasm and innovation at every turn. One student said it best: "Everything about Kittatiny has dramatically changed for the better since Mr. Bosworth became the principal."



Shadow Ridge High School | Travis Warnick, Las Vegas, NV

Principal Travis Warnick believes that students who enjoy going to school will perform more successfully both inside and outside the classroom. Under his leadership, Shadow Ridge high school has transformed from an institution lacking in morale and involvement to a place where students are eager to learn and participate. From conspiring with the students to pull a renowned senior prank to starring in the school production of Young Frankenstein, he will stop at nothing to keep Shadow Ridge engaging and fun. Assistant Principal Missy Shipp says, "Principal Warnick has successfully steered Shadow Ridge to be extremely exciting for our student body . . . he goes above and beyond to make Shadow Ridge a better place for students."



Varsity MVP Award Winner



Franklin High School Nyjari McNeil, Reisterstown, MD

Nyjari McNeil, an honor student and track runner, motivates her team, prioritizes sportsmanship, and stays active in her community year-round. Most notably, Nyjari spends her holidays volunteering at Challengers Independent Living, Inc. to help teens in foster care. She makes and stuffs Christmas stockings, collects canned goods for Thanksgiving, sells tickets for events, and plays in their Annual Golf Tournament. Nyjari exemplifies sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork and expertly balances her roles as an exemplary student, serious athlete, and committed community member.

Finalist

Bishop Guilfoyle High School Dakota Leamer, Altoona, PA

Dakota Leamer was nominated as a Varsity MVP by his high school football team for contributing positive encouragement, determination and spirit both on and off the field.

Saint Mary Catholic High School Mack Blashka, Neenah, WI

A member of his school's basketball and baseball teams, Mack Blashka also dedicates himself to his school through the Student Activities Leadership Team.

Raceland High School Krystal Keeton, Raceland, KY

Krystal Keeton, the captain of the volleyball team and valedictorian of her class, brings drive and passion to athletics and academics alike.

Skyline High School Adriana Tapa, Mesa, AZ

Adriana Tapa has goals of becoming a doctor; as an AP student, varsity basketball player, and active community volunteer, she is well on her way.

Legacy Coaching Award Winner



Douglas County High School Chet Forsh, Douglasville, GA

Varsity Brands sought to find a coach with a long-standing history of success who encourages academic excellence and good character. Douglas County High School's Coach Chet Forsh has taught and coached for over 43 years. He currently leads Douglas County's cross country, girls' basketball, and track teams with dedication and passion.

He has over 595 wins and has sent over 25 young women to play collegiate basketball. Students and staff describe him as the "anchor" of the high school, and say that Coach Forsh "bleeds blue and gold".



Bowling Green High School Dan Dewitt, Bowling Green, OH

Hockey coach Dan Dewitt has a 26-year legacy spanning over 500 wins, making him one of the winningest and most beloved coaches in Bowling Green history.

Robinson Secondary School Bryan Hazard, Springfield, VA

Wrestling coach Bryan Hazard runs one of the most successful programs in Virginia, and believes in teaching students the value of approaching life with honor and courage.

Winter Springs High School Scott Gomrad, Winter Springs, FL

Winter Springs High School: Wrestling coach Scott Gomrad inspires his athletes to be their very best, establishing Winter Springs Wrestling as the most hardworking program at the school.

Superior Sportsmanship Award



San Bernadino High School Varsity Basketball Team, San Bernadino, CA

Varsity Brands wanted to find one athletic team that shows respect and graciousness to opposing teams and school groups. The San Bernadino High School Varsity Basketball Team demonstrates the utmost sportsmanship by raising community pride; the team regularly volunteers at homeless shelters, elementary schools, and throughout the school. On game days, the team dresses in suits, demonstrating good sportsmanship off the court, to empower school spirit and character. Before games, they show respect to visiting teams by greeting them and welcoming them to campus.

Finalist

Eisenhower High School Cardinal Dance Team, Blue Island, IL

The Cardinal Dance Team's motto, "Respect all; fear none," is reflected in the respect, compassion and kindness with which they treat their school and community.

Franklin High School Saber Cheerleading Program, Franklin, WI

The Saber Cheerleading Program makes it their mission to mentor younger students, attend a multitude of school events and bring spirit to their entire community.

Outstanding Athletic Director Award



Eastside Catholic High School | Stacey Stoutt, Sammamish, WA

In searching for an Outstanding Athletic Director, Varsity Brands hoped to find an individual who supports all school teams enthusiastically and loyally, regardless of success level. Assistant Athletic Director Stacey Stoutt has Made Eastside Catholic a "loving home" for students and athletes alike. For her nurturing and supportive nature, she has earned the nickname "Mama Stoutt." She also has a successful track record, as Eastside Catholic signed 10 athletes to collegiate sports programs this last year.



Andover Central High School Doug Carr, Andover KS

Doug Carr has served as the athletic director at Andover High School for fifteen years, and often holds impromptu pep rallies to show support for athletes and school groups that have excelled.

Eisenhower High School James Weber, Blue Island, IL

Dr. James Weber, Eisenhower High School Athletic Director has made great strides to improve his school, most notably by increasing opportunities for low-income students to get involved in school athletics.

Jericho High School John Mankowich, Jericho, NY

In his role as Athletic Director, John Mankowich has added new school sports, increased elective class offerings for health and sports science, and planned numerous spirit activities to unite Jericho High School's students.

Stoughton High School Mel Dow, Stoughton, WI

With over 1000 students, 40 competitive teams, and 14 different sports, Stoughton High School has a large variety of activities and sports for students to join, and athletic director Mel Dow has made it part of his job to know each student by name to best support their goals.

Finalist

Magnificent Team Manager Award



Franklin Road Academy Robert Lewis, Nashville, TN

Varsity Brands wanted to find one dedicated student who loyally and eagerly assists their school's athletic teams – a student who keeps practices and games running smoothly so that the athletes can focus on bringing their best to the game. Enter Robert Lewis, a high school senior living

with Down syndrome who has managed his school's varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams for all four years of school. All of Robert's teammates consider him an invaluable and irreplaceable member of the team, and an inspiration both on and off the playing field.

Finalist

Chapin High School Graham Reinhart, Chapin, SC

Graham Reinhart stepped in as Team Manager after a career-ending spinal injury – teammates say his dedication to the football team has "touched the lives of everyone on and off the field."

Parkway West High School Tyler Hannegan, Ballwin, MO

Hockey manager Tyler Hannegan, a student with autism, has won the hearts of every member of the team – some even think of him as a coach.

Saint Joseph High School Anthony Colucci, Metuchen, NJ

Baseball manager Anthony Colucci keeps his team on track throughout the year, helping the team live up to their motto, "man up."

SPiRiT

Presented by **VARSITY
SPiRiT**



Spirit Superstar Award



Glenbrook High School Jim Shellard, Glenview, IL

Varsity Brands sought to find an individual who makes outstanding contributions to a school's spirit culture. Students and staff at Glenbrook high school nominated Assistant Principal Dr. Jim Shellard. Dr. Shellard truly embodies the "Titan Spirit," – he regularly invites students to sing the fight song over the school's PA system and sometimes dresses as the school mascot. He is an ardent supporter of all the school's athletic programs and is regularly found on the sidelines cheering on his favorite Titan teams.



Finalist

Brewer High School Alexandria Stroup, Brewer, ME

Alexandria Stroup balances school responsibilities with the National Guard, and serves as a leader on Brewer's cheerleading team.

Great Oak High School Michael White, Temecula, CA

Students know history teacher Michael White as, "Mr. Red," the spirited leader of the student section on game night.

Kittatinny Regional High School Sam Lupo, Newton, NJ

Teacher and Coach Sam Lupo is known as the "voice of spirit" at KRHS for helping create schoolwide spirit weeks and pumping up the crowd on game night.

Spirit of Inclusion Award



Somerville High School Somerville, NJ

The most spirited schools cultivate an atmosphere where all students feel welcomed and accepted. This award was designed to honor one school that goes out its way to educate students about issues related to diversity and inclusion. The Life Skills Program at Somerville High School clearly fit the bill. Somerville invites students to help out throughout the day, creating a space where students with and without disabilities can work and socialize together. Through their efforts to create an

inclusive atmosphere and their mission to end the stigma around Autism Spectrum Disorders, Somerville has forged lifelong friendships that extend beyond the classroom.

Finalist

Burkburnett High School – Burkburnett, TX

The PALS program at Burkburnett have a mission of promoting kindness, school spirit and positivity to all students throughout the school.

Monsignor Edward Pace High School. Miami Gardens, FL

The theater program at Monsignor Edward Pace High School accepts and embraces a diverse group of students, providing a place where students feel comfortable and

supported.

Torrey Pines High School, San Diego, CA

The Torrey Pines Sparkles cheer team demonstrates how inclusion in just one program can impact the entire student body.

Outstanding Student Section Award



Chapin High School Chapin, SC

When Varsity Brands launched the search for the nation's best high school student section, they hoped to find a unified, organized group of students that backs school clubs and athletics with sportsmanship and style. Chapin High School's pep club immediately stood out for their collaborative and enthusiastic mindset. The Pep Club holds monthly meetings to gather feedback from the student body, ensuring that all game night themes and spirit weeks reflect what students want. The Chapin student section never fails to bring their passion and creativity to school events year-round.

Finalist

Antelope High School, Antelope, CA

The Antelope Red Zone considers themselves one big, loud, clapping, cheering family who unconditionally support their school's athletic departments.

Great Oak High School, Temecula, CA

The Great Oak Red Wave has become so popular that the stands can barely hold all the student; their presence extends beyond game night to school plays and other events.

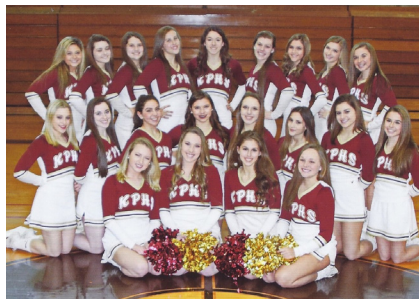
Traverse City West High School, Traverse City, MI

The Bleacher Creatures and Bucket Brigade are known as the best in the state for their positivity and large-scale student participation.

Somerville High School, Somerville, NJ

The Pioneer Pack, made up of all school levels, cheer on their athletes at home and away games with creativity, enthusiasm and the utmost sportsmanship.

Standout Spirit Program Award



Kings Park High School Cheerleading & Kickline, Kings Park, NY

Varsity Brands sought to find a spirit program that represents the very best in community and school ambassadorship. The Kings Park Kickline and Cheer Team immediately stood out for their crowd-leading skills, spirit traditions, and community involvement. The teams frequently work together to increase school and community spirit by giving back and raising money for cancer research.



Finalist

Big Walnut High School Cheerleading, Sanbury, OH

The Big Walnut cheerleading program works to bring out the best in their school's athletes by pumping up the crowd at basketball, soccer, football and wrestling events.

Klein High School Standleaders, Klein, TX

With a history spanning over 30 years, the Klein Standleaders raise spirit by attending as many sporting events as possible and by raising money for school and community improvement.

Patuxent High School Cheerleading, Lusby, MD

The PHS Cheerleaders believe in serving as leaders and ambassadors for the community, and show their dedication through numerous performances and community service projects.

Best School Tradition



Smyrna High School Smyrna, DE

Varsity Brands sought to honor one school with a long-standing, meaningful tradition that inspires school and community spirit. For over 50 years, Smyrna has celebrated homecoming with a traditional parade, complete with elaborate floats that each class spends weeks constructing. The entire school rallies around the homecoming parade, making it a meaningful tradition for students, staff, parents and alumni.

Finalist

Cactus High School, Glendale, AZ

At the beginning of freshman year, every Cactus high school student learns the Sandstorm dance, which students perform at every pep rally and game.

Father Gabriel Richard High School, Ann Arbor, MI

Each February, the Father Gabriel Richard High School varsity dance teams partners with a group of senior male athletes to celebrate the end of the season with the annual "Guy Girl Pom Routine."

Cornerstone Prep Academy, Acworth, GA

Each year, Cornerstone celebrates IMPACT Week and Cornerstone Cares Day, giving parents and students the opportunity to partner with community organizations for volunteer service.

Kings Park High School, Kings Park, NY

During the holiday season, the Kings Park community comes together to "Stuff-a-bus," filling an entire school bus with food and household items for families in need.

Sound of Spirit Marching Band



Ramona High School Dynasty Band, Riverside, CA

The marching band has become an All-American staple at school sporting events. Varsity Brands sought to honor one marching band that brings talent, innovation and dedication to events year round. The Ramona Dynasty Band has gained both national and international recognition – the team has performed across the world, and recently set the world record for largest Monopoly board as part of an interactive, one-of-a-kind show.

Finalist

Earle High School Pride of Earle, Earle, AR

The Pride of Earle Marching Band provides students a diverse and welcoming community; the band has a strong presence in both the school and community at large.

Great Oak High School Spirit of Great Oak, Temecula, CA

The Great Oak Marching Band lives by a philosophy of SPIRIT (Scholarship, Passion, Integrity, Reflection, Involvement and Teamwork), which they bring to dozens of school and community events throughout the year.

Wilburton High School Wilburton Purple Pride, Wilburton, OK

For decades, the Wilburton Purple Pride marching band has been a staple of game night, the heart of local parades, and the inspiration at student pep assemblies.

ACHIEVEMENT

Presented by **HERFF JONES®**
A Varsity ACHIEVEMENT Brand



Student to Celebrate:



Nevis High School Keifer Miller, Nevis, MN

In searching for a Student to Celebrate, Varsity Brands hoped to find a student who has a deep and genuine love for his or her school – a student the community could rely on to remain enthusiastic, optimistic and loyal. Keifer Miller, an honor student and captain of three school sports at Nevis High School. Keifer serves as a mentor and friend to younger students throughout the school district. He is also heavily involved in Special Olympics Unified Sports, and serves as a coach for basketball, bowling, track and field, and aquatics.

Finalist

Cedar Creek High School Will Kirkland, Ruston, LA

Senior Will Kirkland reinvented his school's student section – the "Cougar Cage" to increase school spirit and athletic achievement.

Chapin High School Turner Bonham, Chapin, SC

Student body president Turner Bonham is a varsity athlete, active club participant and the leader of the school's pep club, setting an example of enthusiasm, spirit and sportsmanship.

Erie High School Stephanie Thulen, Erie, IL

Senior Stephanie Thulen, a driven student and talented singer, launched Cardinal Kindness to create a more kind and compassionate student environment for all students.

Hillcrest High School Sarah Weese, Riverside, CA

Sarah Weese, Sophomore Class President, athlete and BMX champion serves as a positive role model by speaking out about her experience with Type I Diabetes.

Top Notch Teacher:



Monsignor Edward Pace High School Cristina Pla-Guzman, Miami Gardens, FL

The best teachers understand that achievement means more than a number in a gradebook. It means helping students discover their strengths and passions. Theater teacher Cristina Pla-Guzman has inspired several students' passion for the performing arts, and in her theater creates an inclusive environment where students from diverse backgrounds feel welcomed and supported. Several members of Ms. Pla-Guzman's class nominated her for this award because of the great care she takes to support the ambitions and dreams of all of her students.



Finalist

Arroyo Valley High School Morgan Pellettera

English teacher Morgan Pellettera is dedicated to helping students discover their strengths and passions, and spends her free time helping her students prepare for college.

Bishop Guilfoyle High School Jana Sidler, Altoona, PA

Teacher Jana Sidler brings art to life by exposing students to various genres, mediums and styles of artistic expression.

Perry Central High School Mary Jo Hagedorn, Leopold, IN

Foreign language teacher Mary Jo Hagedorn brings boundless energy and enthusiasm to her classroom, making learning fun for students at all levels.

Yerd of the Year



Mesa High School Paulina Verbera, Mesa, AZ

Nothing captures the energy and excitement of the school year like a yearbook filled with photographs and achievements. Yearbook editor-in-chief Paulina Verbera has a passion for journalism, and takes great care to lead Mesa's yearbook staff with excellent organization, precision and enthusiasm. In addition to yearbook, Paulina is actively involved in concert, symphonic and symphony orchestra as a viola player.

Finalist

Gilbert High School Riley Brennan, Winsted, CT

Yearbook editor Riley Brennan is an organized and passionate role model for her peers, and helps keep her school engaged and excited about the yearbook process.

Parkway West High School Ballwin, MO

Yearbook editor Maggie Walkoff not only works to create an incredible yearbook, but also to mentor younger students, ensuring that the Parkway West Yearbook program stays alive and thriving.



Performing Arts Achievement Award



Zionsville High School Show Choir, Zionsville, IN

Performing Arts programs have the potential to add immense value to the high school experience. This is undoubtedly the case for the Zionsville Choralaires and Royalaires award-winning show choirs. Between sold-out shows and national competitions, the Choralaires and Royalaires celebrate a “culture of excellence.” Their professional-grade performances create a sense of pride and spirit throughout the entire Zionsville community.



Finalist

Lakeshore High School Theater

The Lakeshore Theater program gives students the opportunity to showcase their talents and develop leadership abilities by writing, directing and producing their own school productions.

Monsignor Edward Pace High School Theater

The students of Monsignor Edward Pace High School teamed up to nominate their theater program, which has earned local and regional accolades and inspired several students to pursue careers in the performing arts.

Mark Keppel High School Orchestra

The Orchestra at Mark Keppel High School collaborates with several other student groups by accompanying school musicals and by offering concerts throughout the year.

St. Vincent De Paul High School Choir

The St. Vincent De Paul Choir has grown exponentially in the past few years; participation teaches students about classical choir music and also encourages them to create original music.