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March 2026

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS)

announces the

Rhode Island Middle Level Distinguished Student Awards Celebration

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

PURPOSE – This program is intended to give public recognition to two or more 5th-8th grade students in Rhode Island who have distinguished themselves over the course of their middle school experience by demonstrating many of the following qualities. *The selection of these students is the responsibility of each school.* This typically includes qualities such as:

- Teamwork
- Positive Interactions with others
- Respect
- Dependability
- Productivity
- Service to others
- Personal Goals
- Respect for diversity
- Empathy for others

AWARDS CELEBRATION – The two or more students who are selected will receive individual plaques commemorating their accomplishments as well as being featured in the video celebration. Schools will receive the entire video presentation and will be able to show it in any manner they see fit. We encourage schools to hold an event within their school for the students, their families, school representatives, and others to celebrate these students and view the video presentation.

VIDEO CELEBRATION – NELMS will provide participating schools with a video presentation which will include a keynote speaker, recognition for each school's student including photos of the students, and more.

COST TO SCHOOLS – Schools who are members of NELMS will be able to register their Awards Recipients for this virtual event for \$139.00. This price includes the two plaques. If a school is currently not a member of NELMS, the price will be \$239.00. This price includes the two plaques.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS – We know your school might want to honor more than two students, so your school will have the opportunity to honor additional students! The price for each additional student will be \$40.00, which will include a plaque. Please contact NELMS for more information.

RESERVATIONS – Due to planning requirements **NELMS MUST receive your completed reservation by April 28, 2026.** The New England League of Middle Schools looks forward to receiving your reservation. We hope this event will become one of the premiere events of the middle level school year. *Please contact Karin Wilmarth (kwilmarth@nelms.org) if you have any questions.*

Sincerely,
NELMS Middle Level Distinguished Student Celebration Planning Committee
Jeff Rodman, Executive Director, New England League of Middle Schools

Identify your Middle Level Distinguished Students and Register Early!

RHODE ISLAND

MIDDLE LEVEL DISTINGUISHED STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM

Selection Criteria

All decisions concerning selection have a certain subjective element; however, the New England League of Middle Schools urge schools to follow the recommended criteria described below. Procedures used at the school must be fair, non-discriminatory, and consistently applied.

Each school may nominate two or more students from 5th – 8th grade.

The following criteria are suggested:

- Demonstrates academic achievement.
- Provides service to classmates and school.
- Is a positive role model for peers.
- Demonstrates integrity, honesty, self-discipline, empathy, and courage.

These additional indicators may be of assistance:

- ✓ Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- ✓ Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- ✓ Shows leadership in group situations.
- ✓ Shows respect for self and others.
- ✓ Exemplifies positive attitudes and inspires positive behavior in others.
- ✓ Demonstrates academic initiative and is willing to uphold scholarship.
- ✓ Demonstrates leadership in the classroom and school activities.
- ✓ Is dependable and well-organized in any responsibility undertaken.
- ✓ Volunteers and is gladly available and willing to sacrifice to offer assistance to others.
- ✓ Accepts criticism willingly and recommendations graciously.
- ✓ Exemplifies desirable qualities of character and integrity.

**RHODE ISLAND MIDDLE LEVEL DISTINGUISHED
STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
2026 NOMINATION & REGISTRATION FORM**

Sponsored by the New England League of Middle Schools

This registration form and reservation request must be received **NO LATER THAN April 28, 2026.**
Registrations cannot be accepted after this date - so please be sure to register on time!

Principal _____ School _____
Street _____
Town _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email: _____

I nominate the students listed below to receive a **Rhode Island Middle Level Distinguished Student Award** for 2026.
I certify by my signature that each has met the stipulated scholastic, leadership, and personal criteria.

Signature of Principal (Required)

PLEASE **PRINT** NAMES CLEARLY and LEGIBLY - This is how they will appear on the awards and in the program!
***Additional Middle Level Distinguished Students can be honored.**
If you want to honor more than 2 students, please copy this form to submit more names.

1. STUDENT (first) _____ (last) _____
2. STUDENT (first) _____ (last) _____

PLEASE NOTE:

1. **Remittance should be payable to the New England League of Middle Schools. Purchase orders & credit cards accepted.**
2. **Registration confirmations sent by email to the Principal or designated contact.**
3. **Mail or email this form and payment information to NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) (see below).**

Is the school a member of the New England League of Middle Schools?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
MEMBER- \$139 -OR- NON-MEMBER - \$239	\$	
This price includes 2 plaques and access to the event video.		
*Additional Student (\$40 for each additional Middle Level Distinguished Students) Price includes 1 plaque.	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

Check (payable to New England League of Middle Schools) Purchase Order # _____ (**Must** be attached)

Credit Card (We accept MasterCard, Visa, or Discover) If paying by credit card, complete information below.

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date (MM/YY): _____ / _____

Security Code (from back of card): _____ Billing Telephone Number: _____

Billing Street Address: _____

Billing City, State and Zip Code: _____

Print Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____
(Signature required)

Return this registration to:
New England League of Middle Schools, PO Box 887, Georgetown, MA 01833-0887
P: (877) 402-7627 • E-mail: nelms@nelms.org